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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Gerasimov on U.S. Chemical Weapons Withdrawal

LD2707135790 Moscow TASS in English 1337 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow July 27 TASS—The Soviet Union welcomes the withdrawal of American chemical weapons from West German territory, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told a briefing here today.

Gennadiy Gerasimov said that "until quite recently it would have been hard to imagine that this American decision would fit perfectly well into the context of current international relations as a whole, Soviet-U.S. relations in particular."

Gerasimov said this "rather quick" decision by the United States was largely due to a succession of Soviet-U.S. contacts on the elimination of chemical weapons, which were capped by the signing of the bilateral Soviet-U.S. agreement by Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush in Washington in May.

Discussing chemical disarmament, Gerasimov said the Soviet Union "paid attention" to Thursday's speech at the disarmament conference in Geneva by a Dutch representative, who stressed the need to attain specific results at the talks on chemical weapons and favoured holding a meeting of foreign ministers from the conference member- countries.

The Soviet diplomat voiced satisfaction over the fact that an agenda for the common European meeting was coordinated at the first session of the preparatory committee of the CSCE summit conference, planned for November. He also hailed agreement on the need to hold regular meetings of heads of state and government and welcomed the participation of an Albanian delegation as observer.

Replying to a question on the possibility of restoring diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Albania, Geraismov said: "We favour the restoration of diplomatic relations with Albania. This is our position. So one can assume that they will be restored."

Shevardnadze Receives Four Outgoing Envoys

LD2807215290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Shevardnadze today received Gurbadam, the ambassador of the Mongolian People's Republic; Bremer, the ambassador of Mexico; and Turner, the ambassador of Canada in connection with their ending their missions and their forthcoming departure for home. The ambassadors expressed gratitude for the assistance given in the fulfillment of their missions in the Soviet Union.

Shevardnadze also received Cuenca, the ambassador of Spain. They exchanged opinions on some topical issues of development of the situation in Europe, including interaction of the USSR and Spain in promoting the pan-European process. Prospects for Soviet-Spanish relations were also discussed.

Chernyshev Hails CSCE Preparatory Meeting

LD2807135190 Moscow TASS in English 1338 GMT 28 Jul 90

["TASS comment" by military writer Vladimir Chernyshev: "Preparations for CSCE Summit"]

[Text] Moscow July 28 TASS—The committee to prepare for the Paris summit, which will take place in November within the framework of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, ended its first session in Vienna.

By and large, the results of the session can be evaluated as positive.

The preparatory committee, composed of representatives of 33 European states, the United States and Canada, managed to include as much items as possible on the agenda of the forthcoming forum. Participants are expected to exchange views on the new situation in Europe and measures to be taken to enhance security, stability and cooperation on the continent.

The approved agenda seems to provide an opportunity to discuss in the French capital the entire spectrum of political problems that are truly pressing and are of vital importance to the modern-day Europe: establishing a new type of relations between the participating states, slashing military arsenals, German unification, developing the Helsinki process and creating new CSCE structures.

All participants actually reached the understanding of the need to make in Paris decisions on creating political institutes of the CSCE process. They took into account the proposals put forward by the Soviet Union last May.

The Soviet Union considers that the basic CSCE political institutes could comprise a council (assembly) of greater Europe—the forum of the top leader of all participating states in the CSCE process, a committee (council) of foreign ministers, a standing CSCE secretariat, and a centre for ensuring stability in the military-political field in the whole of Europe.

Both East European states and Western countries expressed, even before the beginning of the session, their positive attitude to the Soviet programme to strengthen and develop the CSCE process. This circumstance seems to have played a substantive role in having positions to be harmonised so rapidly in Vienna.

This attitude was reflected in the Moscow declaration of the Warsaw Treaty member-states, the London declaration of the NATO Council and the Dublin declaration of the Council of Europe. Separate states also made their meaningful contribution to elaborating the coordinated positions.

All this forcefully demonstrates how productive can be the movement towards a common European home, towards a fundamentally new security system in Europe if the Helsinki process is used as the key foundation.

The conclusion drawn by the Soviet Union is confirmed afresh: The real situation in Europe dictates the need to shift decision-making on all aspects of security, disarmament and confidence-building into the framework of the 35-nation CSCE forums.

CSCE Center Establishment Discussed in Vienna

LD2707220490 Moscow TASS in English 1653 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna July 27 TASS—The talks on confidence-building measures and security in Europe, which are in progress in Vienna, are more often concentrating on the need to form new European structures of security and the implementation of specific moves in this area.

Today's plenary meeting of the talks conducted by 33 European countries, the United States and Canada again discussed one of such institutions: the establishment of a CSCE Centre to ensure stability and security in Europe.

The discussion of this idea has entered a new stage. After the 16 NATO countries supported the establishment of the centre in their London declaration, they showed greater interest in debating this issue at the talks.

There is now general understanding that it is high time to begin drafting the programme of the centre's operations and outlining its aims and functions.

Soviet Ambassador at Large Oleg Grinevskiy, head of the Soviet delegation at the talks, said that the centre should be a single mechanism, the functions of which should embrace all three main areas of the European process: military-political, economic (including ecology) and humanitarian.

It is very important to make the centre an efficient body from the very beginning. Its terms of reference should include issues concerning military security of CSCE states.

Its activities should be aimed to prevent and settle conflicts of both military and political nature between member-countries.

In this context the centre could collect, spread and analyse information on situations fraught with a crisis or other cases pertaining to the use or threat of force.

Grinevskiy believes that the centre could also organise an exchange of information on military activities by member-countries, as well as other information concerning their implementation of agreed measures to strengthen confidence and security, including understandings on military detente and disarmament.

The centre could begin these activities with the exchange of information provided for by the Stockholm understandings.

Last but not least, annual expert conferences on the implementation of agreed measures to strengthen confidence and security could be held under the centre's auspices.

The Soviet delegation also believes that liaison with the permanent consultative group of the 23 Warsaw Treaty and NATO states could be an important aspect of the centre's activities.

The centre could arrange examination of issues concerning the implementation of agreements on arms control, Grinevskiy noted.

Ecosoc Chairman Gharekhan on Session Results

LD2707105790 Moscow TASS in English 1040 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent Vitaliy Makarchev]

[Text] Geneva July 27 TASS—The discussion at this session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) has shown that reforms by the present leadership of the Soviet Union are viewed by the international community as a phenomenon of truly historic significance, Ecosoc Presidency Chinmaya Gharekhan told TASS today, on the final day of the session.

"The entire structure of international relations is changing, and the world is proceding towards the establishment of a harmonious and consistent security system.

"There is no doubt that President Gorbachev has proved that he is a bold leader endowed with a genuine foresight," Gharekhan said.

"The current period in the Soviet Union's transition to new economic structures is complex for the country. However, I am confident that in the long term the reforms wilil benefit not only the Soviet people but also all those who can draw on the relaxation in international tension," Gharekhan emphasised.

According to the charter, the Ecosoc has a status similar to that of the U.N. General Assembly and the Security Council.

The Ecosoc analyses global economic and social problems and gives recommendations that are deservedly heded by political and public figures.

The council operates in close conjunction with such UN agencies as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The present summer session of the Ecosoc was held at the European UN Headquarters in Geneva from July 4 to 27. The opening session was attended by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"This session of the Ecosoc in many respects has been affected by considerable changes in East-West relations," Gharekhan said.

"Peculiarities of the East European countries' transition from a planned economy to a market one were of great interest to participants in the session.

"The Ecosoc's leading specialists throughly analysed problems connected with the rate of reforms, the duration of the transitional period, the impact of events in Eastern Europe on the rest of the world. These issues will be raised at a special Ecosoc session that will meet next summer.

"We sought to find solutions to global problems in the spirit of solidarity and mutual benefit," Gharekhan said.

"In this connection I would like to note that the Ecosoc leadership supports economic aid to East European countries. This, however, should not lead to a cut in similar aid to developing countries," he said.

In a special reoslution, the Ecosoc also declared in favour of international assistance to the Soviet Union to eliminate the aftermaths of the Chernobyl disaster.

This document will become an integral part of a report to be submitted for discussion to the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly.

'Observers Roundtable' Program Aired 29 Jul

LD2907181790 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 29 Jul 90

["International Observers' Roundtable" program, with Vsevolod Ivanovich Sovva, deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate; (Leonid Mikhaylovich Mlechin), political observer and member of the NOVOYE VREMYA editorial collegium; and all-Union radio commentator Vladimir Georgiyevich Pasko]

[Excerpts] [Pasko] We present our program "International Observer's Roundtable." Taking part in our discussion today are Vsevolod Ivanovich Sovva, deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate; (Leonid Mikhaylovich Mlechin), political observer and member of the NOVOYE VREMYA editorial collegium; and Vladimir Georgiyevich Pasko, all-Union radio commentator. [passage omitted]

[Sovva] On the subject of consumer goods and the development of our Group B industry, one can mention the visit by the Italian Prime Minister Andreotti. In his own words, the purpose of the visit was indeed to determine a specific program platform as the basis for Western countries to participate in supporting perestroyka in the Soviet Union. In its results, the dialogue proved much broader, encompassing the main problems of world and European development. But the emphasis placed by Andreotti prior to this visit to Moscow strikes me as very significant, for he once again pointed to the fact that there is an understanding in West Europe of the importance of perestroyka succeeding in the Soviet Union, an understanding of the fact that failure of perestroyka would be a disaster for everyone. The Italian head of government spoke highly of the fact that the Soviet leadership has not only the intention but a clear program for implementing the reforms associated with perestroyka. He attributed special importance to this, and noted that he will promote a strengthening in the West of the mood in favor of assisting the changes being implemented in the Soviet Union.

[(Mlechin)] My feeling is that there is greater understanding among Western leaders of the crisis situation afflicting us than among some of our own leaders, because where Western aid is concerned the problem, in my view, is not a lack of readiness to grant us such aid, but rather a certain inability, a psychological unpreparedness, to accept it. The dispute goes on, as before, over the conditions on which we can accept such Western aid, and if any conditions are imposed, then should we not refuse it altogether. But this puts us in an even more critical position, because the position taken by, for instance, Margaret Thatcher, is quite clear: People do not want to throw away money which, in our present premarket system, could simply fall into a black hole; they prefer to finance specific serious projects. It is for this reason that Andreotti's visit was important, precisely because there was talk of agreeing on specific projects in which the West is prepared to make the investment we need. [passage omitted]

[Paskoz] Talking about the events of the past week, one can note the visit to Moscow of a group of Japanese parliamentarians headed by Sakurauchi, president of the Japanese House of Representatives. Judging by published information, under discussion were issues concerning Soviet-Japanese cooperation and the forthcoming visit to Japan by Comrade Gorbachev. But a complicating factor in Soviet-Japanese relations is the importunateness with which the Japanese are raising the issue of the so-called northern territories. I liked very much the clearcut reply of Yakovlev, Presidential Council member, to the Japanese during his meeting with them. He said clearly that it is useless to try and justify or accuse history. Russians were the first to set foot in Klondyke, but that does not mean that the USSR lays any claims to these territories. He also said that summit meetings must end in serious decisions. Disagreements can be registered, among other things, in newspaper articles. But summit meetings must move things ahead.

[Sovva] It seems to me that for many reasons, Soviet-Japanese relations are developing in a zigzag fashion: Hope for an exchange of views and progress may sometimes arise suddenly, but this is followed by some sort of lapse of attention, including in Japan. Suffice it to quote

Mr. Nakayam, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee [lower house] of Japan, who recently after the meeting of the "Seven" permitted himself to say something very insulting to our people and, so naturally, to our leadership. He said that to give aid to the USSR is like giving sugar to a diabetic.

Our press, including official newspapers, published material on this subject, too. However, that was indicative of the attitude in Japan toward the idea of developing Soviet-Japanese relations. If they are entertaining any hopes that we will give up our positions and capitulate on the question of territorial claims, these seem to me, as a whole, groundless.

[Miechin] It is with bitterness and regret that I observe the debate between the Soviet and the Japanese sides, because it shows that there is no movement at all in Soviet-Japanese relations. Neither is any in the offing. Yet, a visit of the USSR leader, the first ever in the history of Soviet-Japanese relations, is scheduled for next year.

[Pasko] You know, comrades, I would not look with gloom to the future of Soviet-Japanese relations. It seems to me that the development of the situation in the world must lead to a turn toward realities in Japan, too. They will not stand on one side while the United States and West Europe are establishing normal business relations with us in all spheres. Japan will have to reconsider its positions, and it seems to me that it is already reconsidering them. I do not know whether you noticed that last week a very unusual statement was made by the Japanese leadership about the need to introduce changes into the military policy of the country to bring it into line with the modern situation in the world. This statement was made by Prime Minister Kaifu, significantly, a day before the military tabled their draft plan for spending for the financial year 1991, having traditionally asked for an increase in their assignations. The statement is essentially calling into doubt the demand of the military, for the first time. The experience of recent years shows that the shoots of the new philosophy of peace can be speedily transformed into policy. [passage omitted]

[Sovva] It seems to me that midsummer this year, while there has been a great advance in many directions of our foreign policy, has laid bare tangled problems, and that the activities of the USSR Foreign Ministry and many of our other subdivisons are now directed rather into whatever does not facilitate this advance. For the world is interconnected and interdependent, and I should like to demonstrate this by Soviet-U.S. relations that exist in the chronicle of this week in latent form, but are being brought into the foreground as actual facts. I refer to the forthcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of State Baker to Irkutsk.

Here we have a topic: Why is the head of the U.S. foreign policy department visiting a very fine town on the shores of the celebrated Lake Baykal?

[Miechin] I think that it is very important to understand in general the dynamics of Soviet-U.S. relations, since these relations too are the subject of fairly serious criticism both at the party forums that have been held and, evidently, from the military-industrial complex. Western observers are, moreover, even saying that Soviet diplomacy is succombing to pressure from the military-industrial complex and not making the concessions to its U.S. partners it intended to make and somewhat slowing the pace of the disarmament talks. Perhaps this is so. It has always seemed to me that the military-industrial complex has had a cautious attitude toward Soviet-U.S. disarmament talks. Kissinger's memoirs relate an episode when Soviet military representatives took him aside and asked him not to cite the figure of Soviet armaments, of which he was aware, in the presence of Soviet diplomats, and that included Foreign Minister Gromyko. [passage omitted]

[Pasko] It is, essentially, the first time we have seen such views and trends. To date, military spending throughout the world has been increasing and without any particular obstacles. I think the question now should be: Will it be possible to maintain this trend? After all, opposition to it is evident. The U.S. President has already, on several ocasions in the last few days, made speeches which many have interpreted as balm for the opponents of arms reductions, and not only those in the United States but in the Soviet Union as well. However, the point does not lie in verbal acknowledgements. The British OBSERVER newspaper asks what is to become of the 60,000 British servicemen who could be dismissed because of the planned reductions in the defense budget. The American NBC television company asks the same question, but with reference to the workers of Californian enterprises whose jobs are threatened by reductions in military programs. Is this not the economic basis for Bush's call to Congress not to make excessively sharp cuts in military hardware?

Moreover, this call came at a time when the President had, for the whole of the preceding week, been meeting with leaders of both houses of Congress to look for ways of cutting the huge $169 billion budget deficit. It is well known that the problem of conversion is an extremely urgent one for us, too. Like the West, we are encountering its seriously for the first time. True, the Americans did, they say, have a specialist back in the sixties who was working on the theoretical elaboration of the problem. To judge from our publications, including those in PRAVDA, the Americans also have some practical experience. Some companies, having perceived the trend in international relations, have long been engaged in transferring their production to peaceful lines. However, now all this is necessary on an extensive scale, and on how this is resolved depends how arms reductios are to proceed, and indded if they are to proceed at all.

[Sovva] I should like to reinforce your analysis of the state of affairs in disarmament by specific examples based on documents signed during President Gorbachev's state visit to the United States at the end of

May, beginning of June this year. Among the disarmament accords adopted in Washington, a very important place is occupied by the agreement on a radical reduction in USSR and U.S. chemical weapon stocks. The removal of U.S. chemical weapons from Europe is taking place now. I think that once all the weapons destined to be destroyed have been removed, and by this I mean medium-and shorter-range missiles, chemical, and a mass of other very dangerous means of destroying mankind, we will realize the significance of the accord reached between the USSR and the United States, and, in general, in U.S., European, and world-wide context.

As for the visit by the secretary of state, I think this meeting is the continuation of the series of very important talks and consultations between us at a decisive level, below that of heads of state, but at a decisive level, that enables us now to advance through the entire range of important problems—disarmament, the establishment of new European structures, the settlement of regional conflicts, the organization of cooperation in trade, economic, and other spheres of mutual interest. Why Irkutsk? Because this time the visit of the secretary of state of the United States of America takes him from Washington via Jakarta, Singapore, and Irkutsk to Ulaanbaatar. In this way we can see a large section of Asian policy here, which is in close contact with our own initiatives in the Asian-Pacific region.

[(Miechin)] I think that the visit to Mongolia by the head of the United States foreign policy department is really an event of enormous significance, and it should be examined within the framework of the Soviet program of ensuring security and peace in the Pacific Ocean-Far Eastern region. Here, I would note the huge breakthrough—one that I think has been underestimated by Soviet journalism—the huge breakthrough in Soviet diplomacy in its policy on the Korean peninsula since Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with No Tae-u, the president of the Korean Republic, which was held within the framework of the visit to the United States. It was a fundamental about-face in Soviet foreign policy in the Far East and in Korean policy. It is a most important about-face.

All the delicacy of the problems that arise in connection with our relations with Pyongyang is understandable. After all, this is a strategic ally of the Soviet Union. However, it must be acknowledged outright that without establishing relations with all the states of that region, the program of developing security in the Asian-Pacific region proclaimed in Vladivostok and Krasnoyarsk is impossible. We have constantly been told from all quarters when we proposed the creation there of a model similar to that of Helsinki: What are you talking about? You don't have relations with Taiwan. You don't have relations with Hong Kong. You don't have relations with Korea. Half the countries there are on the verge of war with one another. Such a serious advance in Soviet policy permits both the implementation of the program and a genuine concern for security in the region. Let me remind you that along practically the entire perimeter of the Soviet frontier, the situation is calming down, and it is only in the far west, in view of the confrontation of Japan and South Korea—U.S. troops are stationed there, as well as a powerful Soviet infantry striking force and the powerful Pacific Fleet. No doubt the military are aware what this is costing the country.

[Pasko] Incidentally, last week, events which promise a great deal took place in relations between North and South Korea. An agreement was signed to the effect that the heads of government of North and South Korea will for the first time since 1945 exchange visits in order to discuss matters connected with the removal of military confrontation and the organization of cooperation and exchanges in order to create the pre-requisites for the peaceful reunification of the country. Thus, the first breaches are appearing in the wall that divides the nation in two. This is a radical advance.

[Passage omitted]

[Mlechin] It seems to me that the development of the situation in Afghanistan now requires a certain turn in the policy of the USSR too, that is, something that the chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet [Yeltsin] spoke of at the meeting with mothers of Afghan soldiers: In other words, it would be very desirable to suspend arms supplies to Afghanistan. In addition—and perhaps this is the most important things for all of us—that would be a gesture crucial for ending the search for Soviet lads taken prisoner. Perhaps this gesture would impress the opposition and help us return all those who are alive and in captivity.

[Pasko] It seems to me that this problem is much more complex than it appears at first sight. If the sides involved in confrontation—not only in Afghanistan but everywhere—had had no arms, there would have been peace everywhere. But how can this be achieved? The irreconcilable opposition, which enjoys the support not only of the United States but also of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, and which also obtains large resources from the drug business, can acquire arms independently.

I must confess that I am amazed at the one-sided approach of some of our publicists and people's deputies who essentially demand the halting of our aid to the Afghan Government without linking this measure at the same time with the suspension by the West of its arms supplies to the irreconcilables.

But what would this mean for our own security? After all, Afghanistan is not Angola. It's right next to us. The irreconcilables are giving weapons to our extremists in Central Asia. They dream of creating an Islamic confederation which would include our Central Asian republics. People say the frontier needs to be strengthened. That would be cheaper. But who has calculated whether it could be cheaper? Secondly, the entire world is endeavoring to construct relations so that frontiers will exist only on maps. Take Europe. While here, it's suggested that we strengthen the fencing. This isn't in line with the trends. It doesn't fit somehow. What happens if Afghanistan should not be a matter of indifference for us. I have myself had occasion to look at that country. I must say that the Afghan leadership wins my most profound respect. In most difficult conditions, it is making enormous efforts to obtain an end to the war. I gained the impression that these efforts are producing results. In actual fact, the frontiers of the zones controlled by the sides remain unchanged for the moment, Kabul and other towns are subject to bombardment as before, and yet it seems to me that this does not determine the situation in Afghanistan. This is done by the mood of the population, and they are in favor of reconciliation. How this reconciliation will come about and how the Afghans will reach agreement among themselves no one can predict. I don't think even the Afghan leadership can guess this in advance. However, President Najibullah has noted on more than one occasion that even fiven alil the importance of the external factor, it is the internal factor that is pre-eminent for an Afghan settlement. The Soviet Union and the United States can only promote a settlement.

[Sovva] With regard to weaponry, I should like to say that the principle of diminishing symmetry is starting to operate. Here too, one needs to see clearly that a rifle on one side gives rise to a rifle on the other side. The decision of the competent U.S. bodies to stop supplies of some kinds of weapon at least is a sensible one.

[Pasko] Whether there will be a move here, Vsevolod Ivanovich, we will know after Comrade Shevardnadze's meeting with Secretary of State Baker in Irkutsk. The Senate committee's decision demonstrates that the Americans' turn toward realism continues and this, in its turn, confirms the conclusion that the world has entered a post-confrontation period, one that opens up vast opportunities, both for strengthening international security and from the point of view of economic and social progress.

Comrades, the time of our program is at an end. it is time to take our leave. thank you for taking part in the conversation. All the best.

'International Situation' Progam on U.S., Cuba

LD2707130290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 27 Jul 90

["International Situation—Questions and Answers" program, presented by all-Union radio commentator Kazbek Basiyev, with "my colleague" Viktor Levin, Sergey Pravdin, special correspondent in Ulaanbaatar, "my colleague" commentator Stanislav Blazhenkov, and "my colleague" Valentin Gubernatorov]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Basiyev] It is well known that U.S.-Cuban relations are not yet improving—Olga Nikolayevna Chayko, a resident of the city of Saransk, writes. The mass media are putting the full blame on the U.S. side, the writer of the letter notes. But, she believes, both parties are to blame for any quarrel or conflict. The Cuban leaders are also to blame, to a certain extent, for the fact that relations between the two countries remain at a low level. Comrade Chayko asserts that they do not want to improve them, but are merely intimidating their people with a nonexistent U.S. threat.

Such an opinion, in my view, is not completely well-considered or objective. First and foremost, Olga Nikolayevna's thesis about a nonexistent threat to Cuba from the United States is rather vulnerable. First, we know that an armed attack was once made on Cuba from U.S. territory and with CIA support, with the aim of overthrowing the revolutionary regime. Admittedly, that was a long time ago, but Washington's hostility toward Havana has not abated since then. The United States has simply not recognized Fidel Castro's government—constantly waging a propaganda and psychological war against it—is subjecting Cuba to an economic blockade and quite often stages shows of force off its shores. I do not think that this means the United States is seriously preparing to carry out an act of aggression against the island state, but the Cuban leaders have grounds for speaking on the possibility of such an operation. Moreover, the United States is stubbornly refusing to eliminate its military base at Guantanamo, on Cuban soil.

At the same time, the writer is probably right to assert that the Cuban leadership is also responsible, to a certain extent, for its bad relations with the northern neighbor—I stress, to a certain extent. It is as though they have grown accustomed to a state of confrontation with the United States, do not wish to give up the rigid ideological confrontation, and are not looking for compromise solutions to the problems in their bilateral relations. This also encourages the tension and helps the authorities to maintain among the people a heightened feeling of permanent danger and threat of attack from the outside; and in such an atmosphere, as a rule, the citizens' democratic rights and freedoms are restricted, and different views are, to put it mildly, not encouraged. The interests of the moral and political cohesion of the nation, which is said to be necessary to repulse any machinations by the foe, are put first. Cuba confirms the rule in this regard.

But the restrictions on democracy and violations of human rights in turn pour oil on the fire of the progaganda and psychological war being waged by Washington against Cuba. That produces, as it were, a closed circle of hostility and confrontation, and I think it needs efforts from both sides to break it. It requires new thinking, a departure from old stereotypes, a desire to change the situation for the better and, of course, specific steps along the road of a normalisation of U.S.-Cuban relations. [passage omitted]

Charity To Replace Ideology in Aid Policy

PM2707140990 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 1

[Article by Yelena Arefyeva under the "Political Diary" rubric: "Charity or Ideology?"]

[Text] The argument over aid to foreign states has livened up in recent months. And now we have the first victory for those in favor of reducing it: The resolution adopted by the USSR Council of Ministers on the concept for transition to a regulated market economy instructs the Council of Ministers to work at reducing the amount of aid we give.

I want to congratulate the deputies on having taken this important step toward glasnost and having gotten closer to solving our foreign problems, which complicate our domestic ones. But at the same time one is bound to regret that the question is posed so narrowly—solely in terms of the amount of aid. The problem, after all, is not the amount—that is the consequence. The crux of the matter lies elsewhere—in the thrust and the objectives of our aid. From that standpoint the diversion of resources from the national economy does not stand up to criticism and, indeed, by virtue of its blatantly preperestroyka nature evokes just one desire—the desire to reduce it.

In other words, we need to talk about a complete reexamination our aid policy, leading to a reduction in its scale. At any rate, if humanity and sober economic calculation, rather than ideology, are taken as the basis. Neither must be forgotten, given that we have decided to play common games by commonly accepted international rules.

It is normal common human logic which tells us where humanity is to be shown and how, helping both ourselves and others. And then it will prove to be the case that taking account of notions of humanity is cheaper and, what is more, more effective for the partner than footing an ideological bill. It will become obvious that the slogan "it is necessary to be charitable," advanced by those who oppose cuts in aid, conceals a scheme to continue collecting taxes to finance our ideological blindness.

Under this slogan we are not, of course, urged to be charitable to our own people. Moreover, the concept of charity is here subject to twofold and threefold speculation.

The discussion typically revolves around Cuba. It transpires that we are obligated to it... for its charity toward our Afghan veterans and the children of Chernobyl, whom it is ready to receive for medical treatment. But clearly the first-rate healthcare system in Cuba has been created with our credit assistance. Moreover, the necessity for charity toward that far-off country is demonstrated by highly dubious manipulation of economic indicators. It turns out that we are still benefiting from our charity—an unprecedented case in international aid practice.

The basic scope of the speculation goes still further: Stressing the concept of humanity, the supporters of this kind of aid never mention the real benefit built into it in previous years—the ideological and military-strategic benefit—which undermines potential partners' confidence in us. It is interesting, for example, that the prospects of our aid to Cuba are extensively discussed in the United States not in terms of sugar and gasoline prices but in terms of information about our military bases and the huge station tracking the United States located on the Island of Freedom. The Americans ask quite rightly, in my view, where the new political thinking is here, where the real backup is for the new defense doctrine, and whether the close military ties with Cuba, supplemented by the input of economic resources, are not designed to maintain confrontation.

So is this charity? Or are they military-strategic tasks inherited from the period of confrontation and running counter to all our present-day objectives in both politics and economics?

Such aid, determined by the former ideological tasks of the "struggle between the two systems" or geared to dated military aims, must be cut back without fail on every continent, not just in Latin America. Plus, of course, the purely military aid, which is becoming our ignominy. Here we have simply been lucky—life has spared us the choice between morality and gain, as there has been no gain for a long time, and yesterday's hard currency revenue is now transforming into the direct accumulation of debt to us by developing countries. It would be a good thing to cede voluntarily our sorry leadership among arms exporters to the Third World. So far as charity is concerned, states in conflict do not lack weapons: What they lack are flour, cooking oil, and clothing.

In reexamining our aid and renouncing ideological and military tasks, we will see that it is not just or so much aid granted free of charge that is a burden to the budget. It amounts to one-fifth or one-sixth of all expenditure, discounting our enormous military aid. The problem is to ensure that our remaining expenditure does not become gratis too, since part of that expenditure increases hopeless debts and the other, while earning interest, proves ineffective from the long-term economic and political standpoint.

Likewise with debts—it is difficult to recover them: One can get back only a small proportion through imports of raw materials and consumer goods. But a certain proportion of the indebtedness is wholly legitimate; it will be paid off under agrements over many more years, which will in no way ease our present problems. In short, in order to recover our debts, credit must be granted not to our ideological allies but on the basis of economic realities.

We now have the chance to show charity and introduce morality into our foreign policy and in no way hurt our people's interests in so doing. This requires just one thing—that we actually abandon ideology in our aid and stop regarding it as an instrument to attach our allies to us. We will not then be put out by those forms of assistance where high efficiency for the receiving countries can be achieved through the least outlay. These are international, multilateral forms, which we formerly shunned as ideologically inimical.

This would provide real support for the developing countries, and world experience would make it possible to successfully speed up their economic growth. This would give us a double result—by cutting the volume but channeling a growing proportion of aid through multilateral forms we would demonstrate our new civilizedness to the whole world.

From unblocking regional conflicts jointly with the West to pooling efforts in the sphere of Third World aid—morality will assume a worthy place in international affairs in such a key area and will be comprehensible and obvious to everyone. And then our country will not have to cover up our foreign aid with the fig leaf of "internationalism" and misconceived charity.

Moreover, normal, sensible aid would not simply ease our budget deficit; in the long term it would produce foreign economic success. Contrary to the dogma on neocolonialism such aid, sensibly coordinated with other nonpreferential channels—trade and investments—makes it possible to take account of the interests of both the receiving countries and the donors. But ideological aid will never be economically effective. Nor is it capable of revealing our natural charity to the world.

United States & Canada

Bush Urged To Reject Khmer Rouge in Cambodia

LD2707110990 Moscow TASS in English 1052 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksey Berezhkov]

[Text] Sixty-six senators wrote President Bush this week saying that Khmer Rouge was an unacceptable danger to Cambodian people and urging him to base American policy on preventing Khmers from returning to Cambodia.

The letter hails the U.S. Administration's decision to review its approach to the peace settlement in Cambodia. Secretary of State James Baker announced in Paris recently that the United States would drop recognition in the United Nations of the opposition group that includes the Khmer Rouge and that the administration would begin talks with Vietnam about ending Cambodia's decade-long civil war.

The senators, representing nearly two-thirds of the Senate, urged the administration to go a step further. They called for opening direct talks with the Phnom Penh government, extending development aid to Cambodia and promoting elections in that country instead of working for a temporary agreement on the separation of powers among antagonistic sides.

The administration, the letter stresses, should announce that it will not support any decision that could give the Khmer Rouge an opportunity to play a role in Cambodia's future or strengthen the possibility of their military victory.

After twenty years of tragedy, the Cambodian people deserve a chance to determine their own fate without fearing a return of the Khmer Rouge, the letter says.

In connection with the administration's announced intention to press the Congress for the approval of further aid to non-communist opposition groups, the senators came out strongly against secret aid to anti-government forces.

They reminded the President that support for the non-communist opposition is at variance with the United States legislation, taking into account reports about cooperation between resistance groups and the Khmer Rouge.

Scheduled Baker-Shevardnadze Talks Previewed

PM2707152790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by diplomatic correspondent M. Yusin: "Baker-Shevardnadze: In Expectation of Round 16"]

[Text] A meeting will take place in Irkutsk on 1 August between USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker.

The idea of holding talks in Irkutsk came into being unexpectedly. It was during the Baker-Shevardnadze talks in Copenhagen two months ago that the idea first cropped up that it would be useful to organize a meeting of the Soviet minister and the U.S. secretary between the Paris and Moscow rounds of the consultations under the "two-plus-four" formula. It only remained to decide on the time and place. Since Baker's Asian tour is scheduled for late July and early August, Ulaanbaatar—the final stage of the secretary of state's trip—emerged as one of the options.

The idea was developed subsequently. True, it was decided to move the venue from Ulaanbaatar to Irkutsk, which is not that far from the Mongolian capital. Thus, the Soviet Union became the third stage on Baker's tour, whose itinerary now appears as follows: Jakarta-Singapore-Irkutsk-Ulaanbaatar.

Journalists have calculated that the leaders of the Soviet and U.S. diplomatic departments have already met 15 times since 1989, when James Baker succeeded George Shultz in the post of secretary of state. And in recent months the schedule of meetings has been appreciably fuller. During February through July Baker and Shevardnadze sat down at a negotiating table 10 times.

The Irkutsk meeting stands apart among these now commonplace meetings. Above all because talks between Baker and Shevardnadze will take place in Asia for the first time. It may be assumed that the geographic factor will influence the agenda to some extent and more attention than usual will be devoted to Asian problems.

The Irkutsk round has another special feature. All the previous meetings between Shevardnadze and Baker may be divided conventionally into two groups. They have either been talks within the framework of official visits—which, as a rule, presupposes a rigid agenda and a strictly delineated range of questions to be discussed. Or the ministers have participated in consultations of "the Six," in some international forums, or in ceremonies. In such cases they have met each other in breaks between sessions or after they have ended. In this a shortage of time has almost always been felt. There will be no such problems in Irkutsk. Foreign Ministry staffers with whom I have spoken hope that the informal nature of the meeting will make it easier to arrive at mutual understanding.

According to the preliminary program, Shevardnadze and the team accompanying him will fly to Irkutsk on the morning of Tuesday 31 July. Baker will arrive at the venue Tuesday night. Talks will occupy most of 1 August. They will mostly be one-on-one conversations, in which, in addition to interpreters, only the ministers' closest aides will participate—Sergey Tarasenko on the Soviet side and Dennis Ross on the U.S. side. A trip to Baykal is planned, but Shevardnadze and Baker will hardly have time to enjoy the lake's beauties: The talks will most likely continue even on board the motorboat.

The range of questions to be discussed is very extensive. It was noted that certain topics would be examined in detail at the previous meeting in Paris. However, the conversation held in the French capital on 18 July at the close of the "two plus four" talks was distinctive in nature. First, it was only half as long as previously planned. And second, a considerable part of the time was taken up with discussion of the results of the CPSU congress which had just finished. You got the impression that both sides preferred to postpone detailed discussion of specific problems until next time. A possible cause being that the fact that in the two weeks preceding the Paris round the Soviet minister had been absorbed in the congress and naturally needed some time to get back into the diplomatic swing.

Be that as it may, such highly important questions as the settlement in Cambodia and Afghanistan were only lightly touched on in Paris. More detailed discussion will clearly take place in Irkutsk.

A fundamentally new factor has emerged in the U.S. approach to the Cambodian problem. Washington has come out against the Khmer Rouge's representing Cambodia in the United Nations. The Baker statement has had a great impact around the world. In the states of Southeast Asia the reaction has been mixed. At the same time Moscow received the American move with great satisfaction. A well-informed interlocutor in the Foreign Ministry expressed the opinion that the U.S. decision will assist a Cambodian settlement. Hitherto the problem was that it had proven altogether impossible to get the United Nations involved in the solution of the question. One reason was the stance of the governments of Cambodia and Vietnam, which associated the United Nations primarily with the seat occupied by a Pol Pot supporter during General Assembly sessions. The evolution of the American position could entail the Khmer Rouge's exit from the United Nations and a change in the attitude of Phnom Penh and Hanoi to the UN role, which could eventually prove no bad basis for a settlement of the conflict. All these questions will, by all accounts, be discussed in Irkutsk.

Progress in resolving the Afghan problem is also possible. The fact that Washington reacted positively, if the American press is to be believed, to the recent proposal on the conditions for holding free elections in Afghanistan put forward by Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR permanent representative at the United Nations, is a promising sign. Moreover, President Najibullah recently put forward a number of initiatives which chime in many respects with Soviet proposals—at any rate as they are presented by American newspapers. (This proviso has to be made because there have been no official reports on the Vorontsov initiative in the Soviet Union to date). Given all these factors, the upcoming discussion in Irkutsk on Afghan affairs is of particular interest.

Most likely other regional problems—the Near East, Korea, and Latin America—will be discussed, although probably not in so much detail as Cambodia and Afghanistan.

It is not ruled out that the discussion in Irkutsk will focus on the timing of the new Soviet-U.S. summit which, if the sequence is maintained, will take place in the USSR. Furthermore, even if one presumes that Baker and Shevardnadze will reach agreement on everything in Irkutsk, the ministers can hardly be expected to produce an official statement on this score without further consultations with their presidents....

As always, attention will focus on questions of bilateral relations, including the possibility of U.S. aid to the Soviet Union. This theme has already been broached in Paris and now, presumably, there will be a meaningful discussion and analysis of the actual U.S. proposals.

The problem of German unification, which in recent months has invariably been the number one theme, will most probably be overshadowed in Irkutsk. There are not very many differences of opinion left on this—Gorbachev's recent meeting with Chancellor Kohl resolved almost all the disputed points.

As for disarmament, the other traditional theme at Soviet-U.S. talks, that will undoubtedly be on the agenda in Irkutsk, too. Serious disagreements persist between Moscow and Washington—primarily with regard to aviation and, in particular, on the issue of whether land-based naval aircraft should be considered in the arms reduction (the United States claims that they should, the USSR has objections to this).

I should like to believe that the 16th (Irkutsk) round of talks between Baker and Shevardnadze will bring our countries' positions on disarmament questions closer together. Especially since time is hurrying on. Just a few months remain before the Paris CSCE summit, and it is very important that the basic differences of opinion between the USSR and the United States be resolved by then. Otherwise there will be serious problems in the way of achieving the accords on conventional arms reduction which are due to be signed in Paris.

U.S. Willing To Join Island Economic Experiment

LD2707122590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1130 GMT 27 Jul 90

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] U.S. experts have announced their willingness to participate in an economic experiment on the Soviet island of Sakhalin to set up a free enterprise zone there.

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets U.S. Ambassador

PM2707140290 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] E.Ye. Obminskiy, USSR deputy foreign minister, received J. Matlock, U.S. ambassador to the USSR, on 25 July.

Shevardnadze Receives Outgoing Canadian Envoy

LD2807131990 Moscow TASS in English 1312 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow July 28 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met outgoing Canadian Ambassador to the Soviet Union George Turner today.

The two discussed bilateral relations, praising the atmosphere of trust and goodneighbourliness between Canada and the Soviet Union.

The signing of the Soviet-Canadian political declaration and other bilateral documents in November 1989 gave a new boost to Soviet-Canadian relations, they said.

Agreements reached during President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Canada in May served to promote cooperation between the two countries, they said.

Soviet-Canadian interaction is an important part of efforts to improve the international situation and make the process irreversible, they agreed.

Northeast Asia

Plans for Korean Ministerial Talks Welcomed

Foreign Ministry Responds

LD2807114990 Moscow TASS in English 1139 GMT 28 Jul 90

[TASS: "Korea—Statement by Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman"]

[Text] Moscow July 28 TASS—The Soviet Union follows with interest the developments on the Korean peninsula, says a statement by the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman released here today.

Hopeful news has been coming in from there lately. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea and South Korea reached an accord to begin, in September 1990, full-scale talks at the prime minister level to reduce military-political tension and organise diverse exchanges between North and South.

The forthcoming talks of the heads of government are also expected to discuss Korea's joining the United Nations Organisation.

The resumption of the inter-Korean peace dialogue, which is taking place in the context of major positive changes on the international scene, has been the result of the consistent efforts, first and foremost, by democratic Korea. It has been pushing with determination over many years to put an end to military confrontation through drastically cutting the Armed Forces and armaments of North and South, withdrawing foreign troops and nuclear weapons from South Korean, and turning the entire territory of the peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

The proposals to develop confidence-building measures in the military field, which were put forward by the DPRK Government on May 31, 1990, open a tangible opportunity to achieve detente in Korea.

Democratic Korea has come up recently with the new initiative aimed to create favourable conditions for inter-Korean communication: It announced the opening starting from August 15, 1990 of the northern part of Panmunjom for contacts with fellow citizens from South Korea and the holding of a national conference on the unification of the homeland in this village on the demarcation line.

These proposals by the DPRK draw a positive response in South Korea. Seoul reciprocated by launching its own ideas.

The USSR welcomes the latest steps by both Koreas, which are designed to scale down tension on the peninsula, and expect that the planned meetings of the North-South prime ministers will set the beginning to constructive high-level talks.

The Soviet Union is ready to contribute to this process. Overcoming confrontation on the Korean peninsula and establishing the atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding between North and South are in the interests of the whole of the Korean people, the cause of peace and security in Korea and in the Asia-Pacific region.

'Turning Point' Perceived

PM2707113490 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jul 90 Second Edition p 1

[Article by Vsevolod Ovchinnikov from the "Observer's Opinion" column: "Has the Ice Broken?"]

[Text] The ice of the "cold war" is beginning to crack on the Korean peninsula too. Gratifying news of the intensifying dialogue between North and South has recently been arriving increasingly frequently from there.

According to the news agencies' reports, an event took place yesterday which could be a turning point in relations between the two parts of the divided country. On Thursday 26 July an agreement was signed in Panmunjom that the heads of the governments of North and South Korea are to exchange visits for the first time since 1945. Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK Administration Council, is to visit Seoul from 4-7 September, while Kang Yong-hun, prime minister of South Korea, will continue the exchange of opinions in Pyongyang from 16-19 October. The sides will discuss questions of eliminating military confrontation and establishing cooperation and exchanges between North and South, with a view to creating the preconditions for the country's peaceful reunification.

The significance of the accord reached can be judged from the fact that the idea of holding talks of this kind at government level has been under discussion for 18 whole years—since 1972. But the decision to begin direct dialogue was repeatedly postponed first by one side, then by the other. Only recently have signs of a general consensus on the matter appeared.

At the beginning of July the North Korean side called for the "flinging open of doors" between North and South, in order to bring about a decisive breakthrough in the process of Korean unification. It announced that from 15 August it would open its part of Panmunjom, which is located in the middle of the demilitarized zone. In response to this initiative the South Korean side expressed readiness to take a similar step. Seoul also agreed to Pyongyang's proposal to mark 15 August, the 45th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial domination, with a nationwide forum in Panmunjom.

No Tae-u supported Kim Il-song's idea of extending contacts and exchanges between North and South, stating that if the 15 August nationwide forum is a success, it could lay the foundation for reciprocal visits by relatives and friends. The first breaches are appearing in the ferroconcrete wall that divides the nation in two. This is a radical change. Suffice it to recall the South Korean student who found herself in prison merely for going to a youth festival in Pyongyang on her own initiative.

So it would be nice to hope that the ice has broken on the Korean peninsula, which has hitherto remained the last outpost of the "cold war" in the Far East.

Seoul's Purchase of U.S. F-18's Criticized

SK2807034790 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Talk by station military commentator (Sergey Leskov): "Running Counter to Times"—read by announcer]

[Text] The United States intends to equip the ROK Air Force with ultramodern fighters, according to an article published in the recent edition of Britain's influential magazine JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY. Our station military commentator (Sergey Leskov) writes:

The ROK Air Force's efforts to purchase the fighters have become realized. As declared by Seoul, these fighters will be the mainstay of the ROK forces not only through the end of this century, but up through the first 10 years of the 21st century. It was no accident, therefore, that (?an ROK military committee) carefully examined which U.S.-made fighters to choose. The Hornet, a version of ultramodern F-18 fighter-bombers, was chosen. This aircraft is considered to be the [word indistinct] of the latest U.S.-made military aircraft. The ROK Air Force will receive 120 fighters of this type.

What can I say about this? No one will be suspicious of any country, including the ROK, for providing for its own national defense. However, also reasonable is the notion that any step taken in the military sector must comply with the military and political reality. [Words indistinct], Seoul's large-scale buildup of its Air Force is a remnant of the past era. Also important is the fact that no one, including (?the other Korea), takes seriously the so- called threats of southward invasion, which Seoul insists on in an effort to vindicate its military buildup.

Pyongyang's constructive proposals envisage significantly reducing military confrontation on the Korean peninsula. This is clearly evidenced by the fact that North Korea, unilaterally, reduced its troops by 100,000. However, the problem lies elsewhere.

It has been reported that political dialogue between the two Korean states has entered a new stage. An agreement was reached to realize the exchanges of the two countries' prime ministers before this fall. It is not [word indistinct] that both Pyongyang and Seoul have declared that an important goal of the talks between the two Koreas is to take concrete measures to achieve military detente on the Korean peninsula.

Then, what goal does Seoul's planned large-scale military buildup pursue? Of course, this military program, which will cost Seoul tens of billions of dollars, will not contribute to ending military and political confrontation between the North and South of Korea. Instead, this program will only hinder a solution to tasks in keeping with the demand of the era.

Gorbachev's 1991 Visit to Japan Anticipated

Preparations Under Way in Tokyo

LD2707142190 Moscow TASS in English 1415 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Prokhorov]

[Text] Tokyo July 27 TASS—The Japanese Government has begun preparations for next year's visit to the country by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the YOMIURI newspaper reports today.

The government has singled out the main documents to be signed during the visit and mapped out measures to create conditions for a successful visit and to improve Japanese-Soviet relations.

Documents, singled out by the Japanese Government, include an agreement on environmental control, an agreement on cultural cooperation and citizen exchanges and the prolongation of the trade and payments agreement that expires next year.

'Improvement' in Ties Expected

LD2707215390 Moscow TASS in English 2135 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[Text] Tokyo July 28 TASS—"We welcome the intention, expressed for the first time by President Mikhail Gorbachev, to visit Japan next spring," a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Friday, commenting on the results of the meeting in Moscow between the Soviet leader and Daisaku Ikeda, president of the educational Buddhist organisation Soka Gakkai.

"The visit can provide a good chance for a radical improvement of bilateral Soviet-Japanese relations. It would be desirable for both sides to prepare seriously for it," he pointed out.

Gorbachev, Ikeda Discuss Visit

LD2707145890 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jul Second Edition 90 p 1

[Text] Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev met with Daisaku Ikeda, an outstanding Japanese public figure and an original thinker, in the Kremlin 27 July.

Ikeda chairs Soka Gakkai, a major Buddhist educational organisation which has 10 million members in Japan and more than a million in 115 other countries.

Gorbachev and Ikeda met for the first time, but they had long and well known each other's ideas and activities towards humanist goals they both share.

They discussed a profound trend of recent years whereby politics has become increasingly imbued with moral and ethical principles.

They also discussed how important it is today to identify and support a new idea and a new current in time, even if this idea and current are as yet represented by a few individuals or a minority, and how important it is not to reject out of hand what may seem utopian.

The experience of recent years demonstrates that the sprouts of a new philosophy of the world can quickly grow into a policy, into real life. The alliance between the political and the spiritual is already yielding fruit. But its prime results are still ahead, Gorbachev stressed. Man remains a great unsolved mystery. It is difficult to wake him up and even more difficult then, amid freedom, to harmonise his wishes and interests through politics. This constitutes the complexity of modern social and political processes. But this also gives them tremendous strength and generates hope.

Much of the discussion was devoted to Soviet-Japanese relations and Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Japan.

Ikeda said that Japanese people are sincerely looking forward to the visit and wish from the bottom of their hearts that it takes place as soon as possible.

Ikeda assured Gorbachev that his visit will be a success, contributing more than anything else to positive changes and stabilisation in Asia, and will be exceptionally significant to relations between the two countries.

He said that in Japan they want the visit to be more than political talks and include also meetings with Japanese people.

In reply, Gorbachev, speaking on behalf of Soviet people, expressed deep respect for the great Japanese people. The visit should take place, he said. It is an anomaly that while the Soviet Union maintains wide-ranging dialogue with the entire world, it has in no way been possible to organize proper relations with Japan.

"God and history" have made us neighbours, Gorbachev said. It is simply nonsense that two states like this cannot find a common language. Neighbours are not chosen. If the two nations also feel mutual affection, most wide-ranging cooperation and even friendship are possible between them. This will be good for both Japan and the USSR and for the world.

I am prepared to take big steps to meet Japan halfway, Gorbachev said. Despite the fact that the forthcoming months and the year of 1991 will mark a great time in the life of the Soviet Union, representing a great test and a decisive phase in the history of not only perestroyka, Soviet society and the Soviet state but also perhaps in the entire history of this country, it will be essential to find a moment for a visit to Japan.

I am prepared for a candid discussion with Japan, its people and its government. There are no off-limits subjects for me. Anyone can say what he really thinks. But we must step over stereotypes and begin making progress. In this spirit we shall be able to discuss any issues. The main thing is that there should be no ultimatums and no pre-conditions. They are simply humiliating for two such nations.

The Soviet president asked Ikeda to convey a message to Japanese young people. When the world mounts the first steps towards a lasting peaceful period in the history of civilisation, I would like very much that the young understand and accept the challenge of the times, Gorbachev said. If this happens, if our generation is able to help them do this, one can be confident of the future. It is very important for the young of our two countries to mix extensively with one another and get to know one another better.

The meeting passed in an atmosphere of exceptional cordiality and goodwill, symbolising as it were the possibilities and prospects of mutual understanding and accord between the Soviet and Japanese peoples.

Attending the talks were Ch. Aytmatov, A.A. Logunov, G.A. Yagodin, K.N. Brutents, V.I. Dunayev, H. Yamazaki, T. Suzuki, and K. Matsushima.

Soviet Leaders View Bilateral Ties With Japan

Gorbachev Interviewed

LD2707173290 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 27 Jul 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] In the Kremlin today, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev received Daisaku Ikeda, an outstanding Japanese public figure and honorary president of Soka Gakkai, a major Buddhist organization in his country. [video shows Gorbachev greeting and shaking hands with Ikeda and then shows the two seated at table]

During the conversation they discussed matters of mutual interest. [video shows close-ups of Gorbachev and Ikeda. Gorbachev is overheard laughing and saying: "I am acquainted with your work and views, but I was not acquainted with your temperament"] At the end of the conversation, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev answered... [interrupted in mid-sentence by start of a video interview sequence. video shows Gorbachev standing in group, answering questions]

[Begin recording] [unidentified voice in Russian] In respect of your life and your work, what has changed in your work since you changed from being chairman of the Supreme Soviet and became president?

[Gorbachev] It has changed a lot I think.

[Unidentified voice in Russian] And in the direction of difficulty?

[Gorbachev] I consider that in the final analysis, all of us in the country—well, perhaps not everyone, but let us say the majority, because it was discussed in society—have reached an understanding of the nature of the institution of the presidency, and that it is what life itself has led us to. On the one hand, within the framework of democratization and glasnost, as well as the processes of perestroyka, there has been a development throughout the country of the processes of decentralization and powerful centrifugal forces. This indeed is understandable, since within the framework of perestroyka, freedom is moving to the individual and to the work collective, and to an expansion of the rights of towns, villages, and republics. But every system must be balanced amd must function reliably.

We have seen that there has been an increase, or rather, along with the positive processes connected with democratization and decentralization, elements of instability have appeared, and it is necessary to give the new mechanism equilibrium.

[Unidentified voice in Russian] It is also perestroyka that we have received this opportunity to converse with you in this way. Could you tell us briefly about one of your most usual working days, if you would? What do you do in order to maintain the state of health?

[Gorbachev] You know, the times are now such that they do not fit into any normal schedules. I have already had to give up many things to which I am attached. All those who are here next to me, all who hold the same views as me, understand that we must all give all we've got. The country is at a great turning point toward new forms of life and the profoundest renewal, and, of course, we have approached the most decisive phase of these changes. Therefore, all of us here, and elsewhere, are occupied day and night with the resolution of all these problems. During the past days I have had meetings with prominent Japanese representatives. This is what my thoughts came down to: I think that both Japan and the Soviet Union can live without each other, but, in my opinion, this is not the best option. We are neighbors. Two great peoples. Two enormous countries. Our relations with all our neighboring countries are expanding enormously. They are gaining in dynamism. Even our relations with South Korea are already being activated, and it would be strange for us to stand, as you and I are now standing, for two peoples to stand, shifting from one foot to the other without moving to meet each other half way. We make no conditions, no ultimatums and no prior demands on the Japanese people. We are open to and ready for cooperation. We greatly value the fact that in Japanese society and among the Japanese people there is great interest in the life of our country, and if you consider that our peoples are similarly disposed to the Japanese, this is a good basis for cooperation. It seems to me, nonetheless, that we are standing on the threshhold of a new phase of relations between our peoples. I wish prosperity and well-being to the Japanese people. [end recording]

Shevardnadze Discusses Changes

LD2707184890 Moscow TASS in English 1732 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow July 27 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister [Shevardnadze] received today a Japanese parliamentary delegation, now on an official visit in the Soviet Union, which is led by Yoshio Sakurauchi, speaker of the House of Representatives and a prominent politician.

During the conversation Shevardnadze told the delegation about positive changes taking place in the international arena and called their attention to the impressive progress, made in Soviet-American relations, as well as in relations between the Soviet Union and West European countries, Asian and Pacific countries, including China and India, and countries of other regions.

According to the Soviet foreign minister, Soviet-Japanese relations do not remain unchanged either. However, by their dynamism they are still lagging behind the pace of the international developments. The sproutings of new trends in them are still too fragile, and this calls for a responsible and careful attitude to them, including when it comes to separate statements.

Yoshio Sakurauchi also supported the improvement of Soviet-Japanese relations and pointed out that this would meet the interests of the two countries and promote the consolidation of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Kaifu Links Kurile Issue to Aid

LD2807172190 Moscow TASS in English 1656 GMT 28 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent Vadim Yegorev]

[Text] Tokyo July 28 TASS—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Japan was ready to develop relations with the Soviet Union, including economic and humanitarian contacts, without, at the same time, relinquishing the course of achieving early solution to the territorial issue.

At a meeting with Japanese mass media executives on Friday, Kaifu said Japan could not put off the problem of northern territories but this did not mean blocking relations in other areas. He emphasised that the intensification of bilateral ties through developing contacts on the basis of an extended approach would make it possible to solve the territorial issue as well.

In the opinion of local observers, this stance means the softening of the former official course of tying the development of Soviet-Japanese relations to the progress in the transfer of four islands in the south Kurile chain claimed by Tokyo.

Observers point to Kaifu's statement that the time of the transition of East-West relations from the cold war to peace and stability should also become the time of the advancement towards solving the territorial issue, which continues to remain one key condition for providing financial aid to the Soviet side. Observers think that this statement reflects Kaifu's intention to speed the solution of this problem.

The Japanese side's general approach remains invariable—to use the trump card of financial and economic aid as an effective lever of bringing pressure to bear on the USSR in the issue of northern territories.

This clear lagging behind the West's common course of backing Soviet perestroyka is covered up with the thesis of the so-called intellectual aid, implying above all the transfer of production management know-how. This is billed by the local press as an unprecedented striving by the Japanese Government to contribute to a constructive dialogue between Japan and the USSR.

Kaifu Assesses Relations in News Conference

LD3007105190 Moscow TASS in English 1036 GMT 30 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[Text] Tokyo July 30 TASS—Japan plans to extend humanitarian, cultural and academic exchanges with the Soviet Union in order to promote economic and political reform there, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told a news conference in Ichinomiya, Aichi prefecture, today.

Japan has already hosted Soviet delegations in the field of economics and business management, he said. Japan will encourage this practice in the future, if it proves useful in terms of Soviet democratisation and economic development. Bilateral exchanges could perhaps be extended between students and scientists.

Kaifu expressed hope that Japan and the Soviet Union would foster a sort of "interdependence in fields where intellectual cooperation is possible."

While developing relations with the Soviet Union, Japan at the same time will try to solve the territorial problem—Japan lays claims to four Soviet islands in the southern Kurile chain.

Tokyo maintains that this outstanding issue hampers full-scale economic cooperation with the Soviet Union, in particular financial credits.

Asked at the news conference about Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's intention to visit Japan next spring, the Japanese premier said that one should wait until Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to Tokyo and see how the negotiations proceed. The Soviet minister's arrival may mark a turning point in relations between the two countries, Kaifu said.

Likelihood of Peace Treaty With Japan Assessed

LD2807142390 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 28 Jul 90

[By Andrey Sisnev from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] [Sisnev] The next meeting of working groups of Soviet and Japanese diplomats, with each side being led by deputy foreign ministers, will begin in Moscow on Monday. The discussion of matters connected with the conclusion of a peace treaty between the Soviet Union and Japan will be continued. The question I want to ask political observer Vladimir Yakovlevich Tsvetov is: What can be expected from this meeting?

[Tsvetov] Well, let me remind the listeners why 45 years since the end of World War II there still is no peace treaty between the Soviet Union and Japan. Things are like this: In September 1951 the Soviet Union refused to sign the peace treaty with Japan which had been drawn up by the United States and Britain. The Soviet Union considered that the treaty would not be a guarantee against the revival of Japanese militarism and did not pave the way for the peaceful democratic development of Japan.

Well, now, of course, the Soviet Union certainly would have taken a different attitude to the U.S. and British draft. However, as we know, history is unaware of the subjunctive mood, and today one must proceed from the reality that exists as a result of the departure of the

Soviet delegation from the San Francisco conference on concluding a peace treaty with Japan. This reality is that now Japan does not want to sign a peace treaty with us until the territorial issue is resolved on its own terms.

[Sisnev] However, let us return to the forthcoming meeting of the working groups. It is the fifth such meeting, is it not?

[Tsvetov] Yes, it is the fifth such meeting, and just as at the four previous meetings the Soviet Union is not refusing to discuss Japan's territorial claims. Nevertheless, it is not reducing all the work of the groups to this discussion alone. A peace treaty is a document that encompasses the most diverse aspects of relations between states. Consequently, it is necessary to discuss dozens of issues. The Japanese side is trying to reduce the negotiations to the territorial issue alone.

[Sisnev] What, then, happens if the coming meeting of working groups is not marked by movement toward the conclusion of a peace treaty?

[Tsvetov] Well, I do not think that will be the case. There is, nevertheless, some ground for optimism. Up to now, the Japanese Government has been making efforts to internationalize its territorial claims against he USSR, that is, to get support in this respect from the leading capitalist countries. Indeed, Japan has succeeded in achieving this, to some extent. For instance, the final documents of the meeting of the big Seven in Houston include a mention of Japan's territorial claims. On the other hand, however, during his visit to Japan French Prime Minister Michel Rocard deemed it necessary to not quite catch what the head of the Japanese Government had to say about the need to attain greater weight to the territorial problem within the framework of East-West relations. Michel Rocard in no way responded to the words of the Japanese prime minister.

During his meeting with Yoshio Sakurauchi, speaker of the Japanese parliament's House of Representatives, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev pointed out the unproductiveness for the development of Soviet-Japanese relations of overemphasizing territorial problems at the expense of a number of other issues. Gorbachev even said that if the Japanese side reduces the whole multifaceted complex of Soviet-Japanese relations to the territorial issue alone, he sees no sense in his visit to Japan, and as we are aware, this visit is planned for the beginning of next year.

As you know, Japan yet again has linked its refusal to grant material assistance to the Soviet Union to the territorial issue. The FRG, however, has expressed a readiness to extend such aid to us. This may serve to show, albeit indirectly, that neither is Bonn inclined to share the Japanese desire excessively to internationalize the territorial claims.

It seemed to me, therefore, that the Japanese Government should perceive the situation that has come about as a signal that it may find itself left aside from the general world trend toward a full normalization of relations between the advanced capitalist countries and the Soviet Union.

[Sisnev] Well, let us wait until 1 August, when the meeting of the working groups ends, and then probably we will learn how adequately the Japanese Government has responded to these signals about which you have spoken. For now, however, Vladimir Yakovlevich, I want to thank you again for visiting our studio, and I hope you will be a guest of Panorama on many more occasions. Many thanks.

[Tsvetov] Thank you, goodbye.

Near East & South Asia

Trade Ties Opened, Agreement Signed With Israel

LD2707193290 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Jul 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The Soviet Union and Israel have signed an agreement on the establishment of trade ties. REUTER, quoting the president of the Israeli Federation of Chambers of Trade, reports that the two countries are to exchange trade representatives, who are to be based in Moscow and Tel Aviv.

Afghanistan's Najibullah Holds News Conference

PM2607121590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by M. Yusin: "Afghanistan: Two Sensations at Najibullah News Conference"]

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Kabul on Sunday, Afghan President Najibullah stated that the Afghan security forces have liberated a further eight Soviet prisoners of war who were in the hands of opposition formations.

The Afghan leader did not specify where and in what circumstances the Soviet soldiers were liberated nor did he give their names. According to him the transfer of the prisoners of war to representatives of the USSR Embassy in Kabul will take place in the very near future—"in the next one or two days."

Western news agencies cite Najibullah's words: "We are grateful to these soldiers who fulfilled their duty in Afghanistan. We have a deep understanding of the pain and suffering of their relations and we shall spare no effort for the release of all prisoners of war." At the same time the president again described the introduction of Soviet troops into Afghanistan in 1979 as "an erroneous decision."

Hoping to obtain additional information about the eight prisoners of war mentioned by Najibullah, we telephoned the USSR Foreign Ministry. But the ministry spokesman covering Afghanistan said that he knew nothing of the release of a new group of Soviet soldiers. The latest information which the Foreign Ministry has with regard to prisoners concerns the recent release of Ilyas Saatov and Archil Kopadze, about which our newspaper has already written. The Foreign Ministry spokesman announced that the handing over to Soviet Embassy representatives of A. Kopadze, who has been a prisoner of the mujahidin for over three years, will in all probability take place 24 July.

Having finished talking about the prisoners of war, let us return to Najibullah's news conference, since at the conference the Afghan president made one more statement which Western observers assessed as sensational. AFP notes that Najibullah in practice agreed with the basic provisions of the Soviet plan for a peace settlement in Afghanistan. This plan, official reports on which have not yet been published, was, if we are to believe THE NEW YORK TIMES, submitted in the middle of this month by the USSR's permanent UN representative, Yuliy Vorontsov, a former ambassador to Kabul. The plan allegedly provides for the holding of democratic general elections in Afghanistan under UN observation and stipulates that for the period of the election campaign control over the defense and internal affairs ministries and the special services will be handed over to an electoral commission. Only purely symbolic power will thus be left in the president's hands, which will not allow him to influence the course of the elections. The United States welcomed the Soviet proposal with great enthusiasm.

Addressing the Kabul news conference, Najibullah stated his agreement, if elections are held, to hand over some of the functions of the ministries of defense and internal affairs to an electoral commission which in his opinion should include representatives of the government and figures of the opposition. The president proposed that for the duration of the election campaign the opposing sides should pledge not to conduct military operations. At the same time Najibullah made it clear that neither he nor his party intends to leave the political scene before the elections.

The Afghan opposition based in Pakistan reacted very promptly to Najibullah's proposal. An official representative of the "transitional government" stated in Peshawar that "the fighters for the faith reject all Najibullah's so-called 'concessions.' We oppose any settlement plan which provides for the participation of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, even after it has changed its name."

So far there has been no official reaction from the United States and Pakistan to the Afghan president's statement.

And in conclusion a few words about a tragedy which occurred in Kabul Sunday. As television has already reported, as a result of a direct rocket attack on the Soviet Science and Culture Center one of our compatriots has been killed and two wounded. The editorial office has found out that the victims were specialists in electrical and radio equipment who had come from the Soviet Union to eliminate the damage caused to the Science and Culture Center by previous shooting.

All three were sent to Kabul through the Union for Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries. We telephoned that organization and learned that both wounded men—Nikolay Nikolayev and Dmitriy Shchanin—are in the Soviet Embassy hospital. They have splinter wounds which are of no danger to their lives. Early this week Nikolayev and Shchanin and the body of their dead comrade, I. Arkharov, will be sent to the Motherland.

Shevardnadze, Baker To Meet on Aghan Problem

TA3007075190 Moscow in Dari to Afghanistan 1500 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Unattributed commentary from the "World Today" program]

[Text] Dear listeners: Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker are to hold another meeting in the next few days, namely on 1 and 2 August, at the Siberian town of Irkutsk. It has been reported in this connection that during these talks they will devote their main attention to the Afghan problem. The question that arises, though, is will they succeed in putting forward a formula that prepares the ground for ending the war in Afghanistan. Please pay attention now to our forecast in this respect:

Citing reliable, informed sources in Moscow and Washington, commentators are predicting that such an agreement between Soviet and U.S. officials is possible. At the same time they point to changes in U.S. policy. Authorities in Washington previously did not even want to listen to such proposals as maintaining contact with officials of the present regime in the Republic of Afghanistan. But now it seems that Washington officials have reassessed their policy and are viewing the present situation in a different perspective. U.S. officials are even ready to agree to the notion of President Najibullah's remaining at his post during the transition period in which preparations are made for general elections in Afghanistan under UN supervision. Meanwhile, it should be noted that Najibullah himself has repeatedly stated that he is ready to relinquish monopoly on power and transfer some government duties in the transition period to a committee comprising representatives of various political forces.

Other hopeful signs have also been observed. Among other things, Pakistani officials have agreed to a plan drawn up by UN officials for the repatriation of Afghan refugees to their homeland. On the basis of this plan, between 250,000 and 300,000 Afghans will return to their birthplaces during the next three months. In Washington the Senate Intelligence Committee voted to reduce aid to the Afghan opposition by about one-third. Moreover, there is another interesting fact. Reports indicate that Soviet and U.S. officials have reached agreement in principle on halting the delivery of arms to the belligerent Afghan sides. [words indistinct] But although official U.S. authorities do not deny the fact of progress in the preliminary talks, at the same time they claim that it is too early to talk about an agreement. This is possibly a diplomatic gimmick and ploy.

Afghan-Tajik Opium Trafficking Examined

90US1184A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 19 Jun 90 p 4

[Report by N. Kozlova: "A 'Golden Triangle' on Our Borders?"]

[Text] Dushanbe—*It is almost midnight. The high-mountain pass from Khorog to Ishkashim is quiet. The silence that has descended on the land is broken only by the even murmur of the border river. Not a soul is abroad except for two men who are driving a carefully camouflaged car into a culvert at the side of the road. Then one of them hoists a heavy sack onto his shoulder and they move off toward the Afghan border. The sack contains a hand sewing machine, a camera, a spade, a saw, packages of salt and tea, enameled jars, a woman's dress.... The smugglers intend to make a good exchange of these things for opium and hashish. But the deal does not go through: A border detail runs into the "walkers"....*

Just a few years later, unraveling the knot of crimes of U. Mirzoyev and S. Yeyembekov, the chekists came to the conclusion that this was by no means their first venture. During that time, for example, the 30-year-old Mirzoyev had transferred to our country about four kilograms of opium and hashish. He made R22,000 from that. (Naturally, it is the question of the kilograms and money that the investigators were able to prove....)

Today one gram of opium fetches from R80 to R120 on the black market in Dushanbe. In other cities in the country the price is even higher. And the experts believe that most of the poison originates in Afghanistan.

Three years ago the chekists in Tajikistan obtained information that large consignments of opium—from 150 to 200 kilograms—were being brought to the Soviet border. The narcotic was being brought from the Afghan province of Badakhshan by camel along the caravan routes, and by helicopter.

Of course, this was not some random action. It is now firmly known that the intelligence services of several countries consider drug smuggling to be a means of undermining our society. This secret trade has been allocated a major place in the implementation of "Project M." In addition to these intelligence services, representatives of the Afghan gangsters also took part in its development.

The project has a quite specific goal, namely, to overthrow Soviet power in Central Asia. Already today an anti-Soviet underground is being created on its territory. It is being carefully supplied with weapons, narcotics, and special literature....

In principle, smuggling narcotics across the USSR border is possible at any place. Then, from Dushanbe and Osh—those unique transshipment points—opium is sent on to Moscow, Leningrad, Krasnodar, Ordhzhonikidze, the Baltic.... The people "necessary" for this profitable trade are organized at the airports, and railroad and bus stations. Thus, last year, the commander of an air base in Khorog, D. Abdurakhmanov, was arrested for smuggling, and Ye. Rakhimov and Kh. Khasanov, workers with the "Tadzhikenergostroy" Construction and Assembly Administration, were arrested for trying to bring narcotics into the country.

But let us return to the border. Why is it precisely here, in the Pamirs, that the smugglers have found a loophole?

The helicopter hums regularly above the sheer mountain peaks. There is almost no valley—it makes up only three percent of the territory in the Pamirs. A striped pole has been erected here—the state border. Is is astonishing even to think about how they managed to put it there at such a dizzying height! If we look at this region from the viewpoint of geography then you will not find a better place for illegal operations: because of the complicated topography, along hundreds of kilometers of the border it is impossible to build engineering and technical installations.

The historical factor also plays its part: In many parts of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast drugs have been used for centuries. Smuggling is encouraged by the acute shortages of essential goods and foodstuffs in Afghanistan. The villages on the two sides of the river are divided not by a border but by a minimum of two centuries. On the one side there are tractors in the fields and cars on the asphalt roads, while on the other there are wooden plows and bridges woven from the branches of trees spanning the chasms.

It is not only Soviet citizens who go across the border for opium.

"Tell me," I ask a strapping young fellow who has been detained on our side, "is drug smuggling profitable?"

"Very!" He smiles...

This man comes from the large and rich village of Imam-Sokhibskiy in the province of Kunduz, and he is a gang member. He crossed the border together with two of his partners, armed with automatic weapons. And not for the first time. True, he does claim that he was forced to do it. He does not grow opium himself; he obtains it from dealers from Badakhshan.

The press has already repeatedly reported that the Pakistani drug mafia is about to transform Afghanistan into a raw materials base for the production of Poison. The borders of the "golden triangle"—the world's largest opium-growing and producing region—encompass many countries of the Asian continent. But time has shown that these borders are not eternal. Western experts who are engaged in the struggle against the drug business are already saying that South American drugs are gradually being supplanted by Afghan-Pakistani drugs. Meanwhile we are planning to reduce the border zones, mitigate conditions, and expand contacts with the Asian countries. So that in the years immediately ahead our country may become a convenient channel for drugs.

To the point, something is being done. Last year, the Committee for State Security in the Tajik SSR noticeably intensified the struggle against the drug business: Detachments were set up to fight organized crime and smuggling. Several groups have been neutralized. The exchange of information has been organized with the Afghan border guards. Thanks to this, it has been possible to arrest five Soviet citizens carrying contraband in the neighboring country. They were deported to our country.

During the course of "Operation Mak-90" the militia destroyed drug plantations estimated to be worth R1 million. The agencies were also able to block several of the channels used to distribute drugs. But this is little enough; we are still late.

In the Pamirs, in the border airports, along the highways, we saw none of the specially trained narcotics dogs. But they are needed so much! It is also essential to open up border trade as quickly as possible in the oblast and at border points, and to allow relatives to meet on both sides of the river. I am convinced that cases of illegal border crossing will be reduced.

And there is one more major question. It is essential to decide what to do with people who live in the border zone and who have more than one conviction for smuggling and who resume their profitable trade every time they have served their sentences.

In short, a unified program is needed to deal with drugs. It could bring together the uncoordinated forces of all the interested departments. But this the program must be economically strong and independent. It is impossible to delay work on this; if the truth be told, it should have been done yesterday.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Diamond Deal Instituted With South Africa

PM2707155490 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by E. Guseynov: "New Buyer for Soviet Diamonds"]

[Text] The Soviet Union is granting the South African firm De Beers the exclusive right to trade in Soviet diamonds on the world market for five years. An agreement to this effect was signed by Valeriy Rudakov, leader of Glavalmazzoloto, and Nicholas Oppenheimer, deputy chairman of the Swiss subsidiary of De Beers.

Our correspondent contacted Glavalmazzoloto, where they confirmed the fact that the agreement had been signed and clarified some details, a report on which was transmitted by AFP in the evening of 25 July.

The value of the deal is $1 billion, which will be paid to the Soviet Union immediately, as an advance. Payment will be made by the Luxembourg subsidiary of De Beers. The Glavalmazzoloto leadership refuted the AFP suggestion that this $1 billion is only part of the total sum of $5 billion at which the deal was supposedly valued.

De Beers will receive uncut Soviet diamonds, selecting goods within the limits of the established sum over five years and buying them at current world prices. Formerly the USSR carried out similar sales through the British firm City, under a three-year agreement. But since that firm eventually sold the Soviet diamonds to De Beers, it seemed sensible to make direct contact.

De Beers is part of Harry Oppenheimer's South African industrial empire. It controls 80 percent of sales and 30 percent of world production of diamonds and cut diamonds throughout the globe. In 1989 the firm sold precious stones amounting to a total of $4.2 billion. The biggest markets for the sale of De Beers diamonds are the United States (35 percent) and the countries of the Far East and Southeast Asia (22 percent). However, in the last two years, after some years of growth and rising prices, the diamond market has shown a trend toward stabilization and declining demand.

The Soviet Union, which, foreign specialists believe, extracts 10-14 million carats of diamonds a year and is the world's second biggest producer of the raw diamond, after South Africa, has not had ties with De Beers since 1963.

CPSU Greets South African Communist Party

PM3007142690 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jul 90 Second Edition p 1

[Message from CPSU Central Committee: "To the South African Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Text] We cordially congratulate the members of the South African Communist Party [SACP] on its resumption of legal activity.

The SACP survived with honor and courage the dark decades of bans and inhuman repressions, without ceasing for a single day the selfless struggle against racism and reaction. The names of the communists who gave their lives for their people will never be forgotten.

Your party holds a worthy place in the broad front of democratic forces headed by the African National Congress. Real prospects are opening up today for eliminating apartheid through talks and political decisions. We are confident that the cause of freedom in South Africa will triumph.

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee.

Liberian Regime Repeats Past Mistakes

PM2707153790 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jul 90 First Edition p 3

[Report by V. Vinogradov under the rubric: "Observer's Column": "Liberia: Repetition of the Past?"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A military coup took place in Liberia in April 1980. Soldiers and junior officers from the National Guard headed by Sergeant S. Doe overthrew the government of W. Tolbert, whom they accused of corruption and of pursuing an anti-people policy. Tolbert himself and a number of members of his government were killed. The new president, S. Doe, promised the people "a new life."

Now, 10 years later, S. Doe himself is threatened with the same fate as W. Tolbert, whom he executed. And all because the new president's promises have turned out to be no more than that. The new authorities not only repeated all the mistakes of the previous rulers, but went even further in violating democratic rights and freedoms. "The main distinguishing features of Doe's decade in power," a report by the U.S. "Africa Watch" organization for the protection of rights notes, for instance, "are the wide diversity of abuses and violations of human rights, including execution without trial, the use of torture, arbitrary arrests, imprisonment without trial or investigation, and conviction on the basis of bogus charges." There were several attempts to overthrow S. Doe, but they were brutally suppressed by the authorities.

However, the "grapes of wrath" continued to ripen, and in December of last year a new phase began in the struggle against the Liberian regime. C. Taylor, head of the National Patriotic Front, a former high-ranking official, was able to consolidate the rebel forces, and their armed detachments quickly gained control of large areas of Liberia. And then the National Patriotic Front began to advance on Monrovia, putting forward as its main demand the removal of S. Doe from the country's leadership. [passage omitted]

Reporting on the mood currently reigning in Monrovia and in the country, news agencies stress that many Liberians are afraid that after the fall of the Doe regime another wave of repressions and uprisings may sweep over the country, that is, "a repetition of the past" will begin. Particularly if the new politicians, once they have come to power, start to repeat the mistakes of the previous leadership.

Admittedly the statement made by T. Woewiyu, the official spokesman for the National Patriotic Front, stands out in this connection. He said that the National Patriotic Front intends to hold a conference in Liberia in the very near future on questions of a settlement in the country. According to him, all interested sides, including political parties and groupings and mass social and religious organizations are to take part in it. They will be able to freely exchange opinions and express their viewpoint on the country's future.

An encouraging promise, it cannot be denied. But only time will tell whether it is kept.

Ministry Blamed for Trawler Seizure off Somalia

PM2707155190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 4

[Dispatch by IZVESTIYA correspondent G. Ustinov and editorial office comment under the rubric "Details for IZVESTIYA" and the general heading "Soviet Trawler Seized"]

[Text] Addis Ababa—As has already been reported, the Soviet medium fishing trawler "Kaff," registered at Kaliningrad and working as part of the Soviet-French "Franksov" Joint Venture, was seized off the Somali coast near the Gulf of Aden 18 July. It had been fishing for lobster and langoustines in Somali territorial waters. The fishing was being done under an official license issued by the Somali government. There were 27 Soviet seamen and three Somali fisheries inspectors aboard the ship.

A small vessel with armed men aboard unexpectedly approached the trawler. They came on board threatening to open fire. When our ship's captain—Shipul—showed them his permit to fish in the area the strangers stated that they were members of an opposition organization, the Somali National Movement [SNM], and, since they are in conflict with the regime of President Siad Barre, they recognize no government documents.

The "Kaff" was diverted to the small and remote island of Maid [name as transliterated], 25 km offshore. The ship was impounded. The SNM guerrillas demanded a ranking Soviet representative for talks. The SNM sent 16 of the crew members into the mountains, permitting them to take five day's supply of food with them, while the other 11 remained on board ship along with the captain.

Official Soviet organs in a whole series of countries immediately started taking vigorous measures to free the trawler and its crew, and there is some hope that our fishermen will soon be released. In the meantime they are being vigilantly guarded by the Somali opposition. The fact that food and water is running out both on the ship and with the group sent into the mountains is cause for alarm. It is well known that the guards are not very ceremonious with their prisoners and remove their personal effects. Fuel is being siphoned off from the hold of the "Kaff."

It must be said that the blame for the incident that took place off the Somali coast lies to a considerable extent with the leadership of "Franksov" and our organizations—above all, clearly, the USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry, which provided the "travel pass" for the region. The southern section of the Gulf of Aden has been notorious for some time. SNM detachments there have recently seized Italian, Dutch, and Taiwanese ships—something which was quite widely known. And in each case the aggrieved party had to make considerable efforts to settle the incident. The country's main fishery headquarters should have known that, of course.

Now we have to wait for news. Let's hope it will be good.

From the editorial office: Having received this report from our correspondent, we contacted the USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry to find out the latest. Deputy Minister Vyacheslav Zilanov reported that the situation has not changed either for better or for worse as yet. The ship is at the same coordinates and contact is being maintained with it. Vigorous measures are being taken to secure the fishermen's release.

Vyacheslav Zilanov also said that in his 30-year career with the fleet this is the first incident of a Soviet fishing vessel's being seized by pirates. Conclusions will have to be drawn for the future to ensure that fishing is no longer conducted in dangerous areas.

East Europe

Albanian Official Discusses 'Democratic Process'

LD2807182190

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1400 GMT on 28 July, in its "International Panorama" program, carries a seven-minute report by announcer Vsevolod Ovchinnikov on the situation in Albania. Touching on the 15th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, Ovchinnikov states that it is even likely that "maverik" Albania will be represented at the forthcoming Paris meeting of the Helsinki process.

He then introduces a video report by correspondent Lyubovtsev, initially dealing with the Albanian countryside and ancient Albanian towns, and then giving a brief factual history of the hostage crisis. This is done over well-worn footage of the eventual outcome, made possible, he says, by the mediation of Perez de Cuellar. Lyubovtsev points out that members of the public would change the subject when asked about the issue of refugees.

He continues: "As far as the official point of view on the refugee problem is concerned, it was expected by Niko Gjyzari, general secretary of the republic's Council of Ministers—this is a new government post which has been set up for the coordination of all its decisions—and candidate member of the Party Politburo, in a conversation with us.

Gjyzari, speaking in Albanian, with superimposed Russian translation by Lyubovtsev, states: "We have begun the process of the democratization of the life of the country. The party and government are striving for the life of our society to change and become more democratic. These processes of broadening democracy have been greeted by the approval of our people, and at the moment we are doing everything to put them into action.

"The Party Central Committee Plenum, which took place 6-7 July, has indicated new areas for the deepening of the democratic process. However, certain people, whom we call the dregs of our society, penetrated foreign embassies in Tirana and exacerbated the situation, while the right of any Albanian citizen to travel abroad was being proclaimed by a special law in our country. Certain renegades, politically immature and unaware people, are looking for circuitous path to ensure this exit for themselves. These are people alien to us, unpatriotic people. They do not love their motherland and do not support it.

"But, everyone chooses his own path, and our authorities have announced that, no matter what these people have done, they will not be criminally prosecuted, and those who wish, will be issued with foreign passports.

"These people are a worthless section of society. Their act has been condemned by our people. You see, the worries and problems which confront our country must be resolved here. No one can resolve them for us. And we consider that the political situation in our country is completely healthy. It corresponds to the wish of the people, who are fighting for the construction of a socialist society and the improvement of universal prosperity."

The accompanying video shows Lyubovtsev and Gjyzari sitting in armchairs with a coffee table in front of them.

Lyubovtsev ends his report by asking: "When will these desires and hopes become reality? When Albanian society openly bids farewell to the legacy of Stalinism. Of course, it is difficult to make any predictions, but I think that it will not be in the distant future. After all, the process of changes, once started, becomes irreversible."

The report concludes with video of street scenes.

Albanian Journalist Assesses Development of Ties

AU2907182490 Moscow International Service in Albanian 1500 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] As we have reported, the first group of Soviet radio and television journalists visited Albania a short time ago. During their stay in Albania they met with their colleagues from Albanian newspapers and magazines. We invite you today to listen to a short interview conducted by our international affairs reporter with Lulzim Cota of the paper ZERI I POPULLIT.

The first question: As a journalist dealing with international affairs, how much attention do you pay to processes taking place in the Soviet Union? What do you think of the changes taking place in our country?

[Begin Cota recording] The changes which have taken place in the Soviet Union, and are still taking place, are processes in the service of the Soviet people and to the benefit of the peoples of the countries of East Europe. It is an internal matter for the Soviet people and other peoples of this region to choose the road they consider most appropriate. [sentence indistinct] [end recording]

There is now (?discussion) of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between our countries, which were broken off almost 30 years ago. What do you think of this question?

[Begin Cota recording] As for my personal opinion [words indistinct]. As far as I know, there have been discussions and contacts in order to restore diplomatic relations as soon as possible with the aim of making up for lost time, to the benefit of our two states and peoples. [end recording]

Here in Albania, wherever we have met people, in the fields, streets, and factories, we have been given a very warm welcome. How would you explain such friendly feelings toward us?

[Begin Cota recording] There is particular interest in the Soviets among our people. (?The basis for) friendship exists with all peoples of the world. As we say, we respond to friendship with friendship. For years on end, our two peoples cooperated in various fields. [words indistinct] It is therefore beneficial that these relations between our peoples, which were once broken off for well-known historical reasons, should be speedily revived, always in the interests of our two states and peoples. [end recording]

Czechoslovakia Treats Chernobyl Children

90UN2412B Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 3 Jul 90 p 2

[Article by UKRINFORM correspondent A. Yanushevskiy: "For Rest in Czechoslovakia"]

[Text] A special train was dispatched on 2 July from the Southwestern Railroad's Korosten Station. It held more than 400 passengers—children and their mothers from the villages of Polesye who suffered from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. They had been invited to rest and recuperate in Czechoslovakia. During the two months they will spend at the best health facilities the children will undergo medical examinations and receive the necessary treatment. The children will be offered large cultural and sports programs, meet their contemporaries, and take excursions to Prague, Bratislava, and other cities.

The initiative to render assistance to the Ukraine in the cleanup after the Chernobyl accident comes from many government and social organizations of Czechoslovakia and its individual citizens. The Christian Democratic Party, the Czech and Slovak Ministry of Public Health, and the leaders of Slovak trade unions invited the groups of children for treatment. CSFR President V. Havel was directly involved in the program for treating Soviet children who live in the northern regions of Zhitomir Oblast. Activists of the Czechoslovak cultural and educational society, which has recently been created in the Ukraine, and also the Red Cross Society participated actively in the charitable work. Residents of the villages of Malaya Zubovshchina and Malinovka, where Czech communities are active and folk traditions are developing, sent their children to the CSFR for treatment.

"We have long-standing ties with the Czechs and Slovaks," says the deputy chairman of the Korostenskiy Rayon Ispolkom [executive committee], A.B. Karpovich. "A Czechoslovak partisan detachment fought against the fascists on the territory of the oblast in the last war. Ukrainian and Czechoslovak hops growers have been friends for many years. Several times we have received children from the CSFR for rest here. One group of our children is already undergoing treatment in Czechoslovakia. The children are very satisfied with the conditions that have been created for their rest. Several other countries have also responded to our appeal for aid in treating the children.

Number of 'Refugees' Growing in Czechoslovakia

LD3007084890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0430 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] [Announcer] Soviet refugees in the CSFR. This, I must admit, somewhat unexpected topic is offered by Vladimir Taranov, our Prague correspondent. It turns out that the problem is a serious one. Just listen to this:

[Taranov] In recent times the Czechoslovak press has been publishing more and more reports on attempts by Soviet tourists who have come here on holiday to cross the CSFR state border illegally, heading for the FRG and Austria. At the start of the year there was just the odd instance of this, but now dozens of Soviet tourists who come to the CSFR try not to miss their chance. I managed to talk to one of them: Gennadiy Ivanovich Khovanskiy from Novocherkassk in Rostov oblast. He set off for the FRG, but was detained at the border by CSFR border troops. He had worked out his plan carefully at home. He brought a package tour to the CSFR, and arrived in Prague as a member of a tourist group. After a while he disappeared. A few days later he was detained on the CSFR-FRG border, sent back to Prague and advised to contact the CSFR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This he did, but he was politely informed that the CSFR does not take in refugees from the Soviet Union. He was advised to return home. A ticket back to the USSR was bought for him. He was seated on a train and wished bon voyage.

However, the nunmber of such instances, is, alas, continuing to increase. There are an especially large number of people from the towns of Siberia who seek to emigrate to the West via East Europe countries. A characteristic of many of the so-called refugees from the USSR is a certain naivete, and a total ignorance of the reality of the current situation in the East European countries. The transition to a market economy in the CSFR, for instance, is even now accompanied by a squeeze in the job market. For this reason, only a truly naive person would believe that the CSFR will take in anybody from the USSR who wants to come, or will help them emigrate to the West. Even today there is a fear that after the Soviet parliament's adoption of the law on emigration from and immigration to the USSR, there will be an uncontrollable flood of Soviet citizens to the CSFR.

[Announcer] It's up to each individual, of course, but one would like to hope that all our countrymen who dare to take such a step do not overestimate the opportunities and do no build illusions as to the West's interest in a work force from the USSR.

Commentary on Past, Future Ties With Hungary

LD2807130490 Moscow International Service in Hungarian 1900 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Commentary by Yuriy Rogov]

[Text] Recently hardly a day passes without our reading pieces in the Hungarian press which are related in some way to the USSR. [words indistinct] the call of the Hungarian National Assembly addressed to the USSR Supreme Soviet is asked to comdemn the Soviet Union's policy relating to Hungary in 1956.

I do not doubt that there is a need for a serious assessment and objective evaluation of those events as has already been done in connection with the events in Czechoslovakia in 1968. But how do our colleagues in NEPSZABADSAG publish the National Assembly's call?

We can read on the front page the boldly printed headline: "The Soviets too must condemn their intervention in 1956". I think that you understand that such a call might find a mixed reaction here. And I am not sure that all this can promote our future relations.

It is true that in the recent and remote past there had been such periods in the history of the relationship of our countries about which we can both feel ashamed. Yes, there were Hungrian POW's on our country's territory but there were Hungarian punishment units in the Ukraine and in Belorussia. Well, then, is there any sense now to search for and throw stones at each other?

I consider much more constructive Prime Minister Jozsef Antall's approach formulated at the conference of Hungarian ambassadors. He pointed out that a special significance must be paid to correct political and economic relations with the USSR and that there is no other alternative for Hungary. I would add to the words of the prime minister only that the Soviet Union has not alternative either. And we would very much like if a correct relationship, real good neighborliness, and mutual respect would prevail in our ties.

Hungary's Foreign Minister Notes Security, Ties

LD2707202990 Budapest MTI in English 1427 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Budapest, July 27 (MTI)—Hungary's foreign policy is based on the representation of national interests, which, however, should be in conformity with the all-European interests, Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky told an international news conference in Budapest on Friday.

Answering a question, he said that the expected disbanding of the Warsaw Treaty will not leave Hungary without security guarantees as the government intends to conclude bilateral agreements with the neighbouring countries, or renew the present ones. A joint non-aggression declaration of the European countries is under preparation, and a further moral guarantee will be Hungary's membership in the Council of Europe.

The foreign minister termed Romanian Foreign Secretary of State Romulus Neagu's statement that there is no need for a Hungarian consulate in Cluj (Transylvania) as "strange". Jeszenszky pointed out that the many types of close relations between Transylvania and Hungary would make it highly necessary to re-open the consulate.

Removal of Monuments in Poland Deplored

PM2707134490 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jul 90 Second Edition p 5

[M. Tretyakov "Rejoinder": "Monuments and Oblivion"]

[Excerpts] It was sad and rather upsetting to read this report: A monument of gratitude to the Soviet liberator servicemen in Gdynia has been dismantled. [passage omitted]

The monument was removed on 22 July—the day which, since the war, has been marked in the country as the national holiday of Poland's Rebirth. The holiday was abolished recently by a decision of the Sejm, despite numerous protests, including one from republic President Wojciech Jaruzelski. Another attempt has been made to erase from the people's memory the glorious chapters of the heroic struggle against fascism and the country's restoration from the ruins.

Poland has always been known worldwide for its solicitousness toward the memory of the dead, especially those who fell on the battlefield for freedom. But Szymon Pawlicki, deputy of the Gdynia city council, who initiated the dismantling of the monument, stated the other day in an interview for the newspaper SZTANDAR MLODYCH: "For the moment the monument will be on a site belonging to the private construction firm Awentia, which dismantled the figure free of charge. The funds obtained from the sale of three tonnes of bronze will be used to meet the city's needs."

Some people in Poland would sell anything—the people's memory, their own history....

West Europe

Archives Found on Austrian Victims of Stalin

AU2707131490 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 27 Jul 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Special Soviet Archives"]

[Text] Moscow/Vienna—According to the Soviet news agency NOVOSTI, files on approximately 10,000 Austrian victims of Stalin have been found in the Central State Special Archives in Moscow.

These Austrians were kept prisoner in 80 camps of the Stalinist secret police—the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs—and died there. The People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs was responsible for the prisoner-of-war camps.

Most of the Austrians were in the regions of Zaporohzhe, Lugansk, Crimea, Bryansk, Vologda, Gorkiy, Kuybishev, Kirov, Leningrad, Novgorod, Saratov, Sverdlovsk, Volgograd, Tambov, Tula, and Donetsk, and in the Belorussian Soviet Republic and the Kazakh Soviet Republic.

So far, visits to the Soviet Central State Special Archives, which were established in 1945, have not been permitted.

Numerous documents from the time of the Nazi rule in Austria from 1938 to 1945 are also in the Moscow secret archives.

Among them are official documents, confiscated letters, articles on the situation of the workers and the church, records of interrogations, lists of real estate property in Viennese districts, and reports on the activities of social organizations.

Documents of the German security service on the fate of Viennese Jews and Jewish cultural institutions from the years 1938 and 1939 have also been preserved.

Former Austrian Chancellor Kreisky Dies 29 Jul

LD2907072490 Moscow TASS in English 0720 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Vienna July 29 TASS—Former Federal Chancellor of Austria, Bruno Kreisky, died in a Vienna clinic today. He was 79.

A whole epoch in the post-war history of Austria has been associated with the name of this prominent political figure: For 13 years—from 1970 to 1983—he was at the head of the Austrian Socialist Party (SPO) Government.

Kreisky enjoyed a great prestige not only in his own country but abroad, too, as the chancellor and an eminent figure of the international social democratic movement.

While SPO chairman from 1967 to 1983 and remaining the party's honorary chairman right up to 1987, he held the post of deputy chairman and member of the Presidium of the Socialist International.

During his energetic political activities, Bruno Kreisky made a great contribution to the development of versatile and fruitful relations between the Soviet Union and Austria and to the cause of peace and relaxation of tension.

Hijacker Extradited From Finland 27 Jul

LD2707142690 Moscow TASS in English 1410 GMT 27 Jul 90

[by TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Valima, Soviet-Finnish border July 27 TASS—Finland extradited Soviet citizen Oleg Kozlov, 20, who hijacked an Aeroflot flight to Finland on June 19, to Soviet authorities today.

Under a mutual agreement, Kozlov was handed over to Latvian KGB officials at the Valima border checkpoint on the Finnish-Soviet border at 14:20 local time.

The hijacker will be prosecuted in Latvia because he commandeered a flight form Riga to Murmansk.

It took Finnish law-enforcement bodies more than a month to consider all aspects of the incident. Kozlov twice requested political asylum in Finland and was twice refused.

Kozlov was unable to substantiate his claims that he was persecuted at home on political grounds. The Finnish Supreme Court upheld the Soviet extradition request. In accordance with local legal procedures, the final say belonged to the Ministry of Justice. Three days ago it pronounced its final verdict—to extradite the air pirate to soviet authorites.

The influential Finnish HELSINGIN SANOMAT newspaper believes that another Soviet hijacker Mikhail Varfolomeyev, who commandeered an Aeroflot plane on June 24, will also be extradited.

The newspaper hopes that reports about Finland's uncompromising stand towards hijackers will serve to prevent their recurrence.

Italy To Help Improve Soviet Telecommunications

AU2607132690 Rome ANSA in English 1230 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] (ANSA) Moscow, July 26—Italy is working for the Soviet Union's economic recovery with plans for the modernization of the country's telecommunications system and for aid to former communist countries to help boost soviet exports to Eastern Europe, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis said last night.

Speaking to reporters aboard the flight on his way to Moscow, where he (?meets) today with his soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, De Michelis said that although the trip is motivated by Italy's duty presidency of the European Community, it will provide a chance to discuss bilateral relations and plans for Italian projects in the Soviet Union.

The projects, he said, were discussed with Gorbachev during the latter's visit to Rome last November, and they now need a decisive push forward.

The Soviet telecommunications system, the Italian diplomatic chief noted, is outdated, and communications difficulties seriously hinder the development of the nation's foreign trade. Major obstacles to Western contributions in the sector were only removed a few months ago, he added, when some limits to sophisticated technology exports were lifted.

'It would involve investments in the billions of dollars,' he went on, 'but finding the money should not be a problem. Giving the Soviet Union a good foreign telecommunications network would have guaranteed financial returns.'

This especially, he noted, if there is the possibility to give management of the networks to the companies involved in their construction. A similar plan has been proposed in the energy sector by the Netherlands.

Another plan Italy is particularly interested in developing, he revealed, is to increase Western commitment to aid allowing Central and Eastern European countries to pay for their Soviet imports in cash. According to De Michelis this would also help the Soviet Union's economic reforms in the long run.

He mentioned a previous Italian proposal to set aside one-fourth of one percent of the European Community's gross national product, about $15 billion, for such aid to Eastern Europe.

Shevardnadze Confers With Spanish Envoy on Ties

LD2807130190 Moscow TASS in English 1256 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow July 28 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met Spanish Ambassador to the Soviet Union Jose Cuenca Anaya here today.

The two discussed developments in Europe, bilateral relations and interaction between the Soviet Union and Spain in promoting the common European process.

European Summit Preparatory Committee Meets

LD2807041390 Moscow TASS in English 2100 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna July 28 (TASS)—The first session of the summit preparatory committee, attended by delegations from 33 European countries, the U.S. and Canada, ended here on Friday. It outlined the range of questions to be discussed at the summit conference of countries—participants in the all-European process, planned to be held in Paris next November, which is going to become a feature event of the political life this year.

As a result of strenuous work the participants managed to coordinate an intensive political programme of the forthcoming summit. It features the discussion of a new situation in Europe and measures to be taken for a further consolidation of security, stability and cooperation on the continent, including the intensification of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) process. This comprehensive formula will make it possible to discuss at the Paris summit a whole range of political problems, which are topical for present-day Europe. These include the restablishment of a new type of relations between the member states, the reduction of military arsenals, the reunification of Germany, a further development of the Helsinki process, the creation of new CSCE structures and so on.

When working out key elements of the final document of the Paris summit, participants in the session tried to cover all major political problems. It reflected the views expressed in the Moscow declaration of the Warsaw Treaty member states, the London declaration of the NATO council and the Dublin declaration of the European council, as well as national contributions of the member states.

Latin America & Caribbean

Cuban-Spanish Rift on Refugees Reported

PM2707115790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 4

[IZVESTIYA press service report: "Embassy Crisis Continues; Madrid Has Frozen Aid to Cuba"]

[Excerpts] Cuba reaffirmed Tuesday its refusal to allow the refugees who have taken refuge on the territory of various diplomatic missions in Havana to leave the country freely.

Addressing a news conference, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Jose Viera stated that the government does not intend to conduct talks about people seeking refuge in the embassies of a number of European states in Havana. [passage omitted]

The statement by the Cuban vice foreign minister is viewed by news agencies as Havana's answer to Madrid's demand that the refugees be allowed to leave the country without hindrance. [passage omitted]

The conflict is also sinking Spanish head of government F. Gonzalez' recent attempts to persuade F. Castro to undertake a number of democratic reforms—like those which have taken place in the countries of the East European bloc. F. Gonzalez and F. Castro last met in Brazil at the ceremony of the assumption of office of the country's president, Collor de Mello. The Cuban leader was told that Cuba must carry out reforms or else serious social tension awaits it.

REUTER points out that F. Castro and Spanish Foreign Minister F. Ordonez may meet next Saturday in Lima for the assumption of office of the new Peruvian president, A. Fujimori, but so far there has been no official confirmation that the Cuban leader will go.

Yazov Greets Cuban Counterpart on Holiday

PM2707161390 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jul 90 First Edition p 1

[Greetings message by USSR Defense Minister D. Yazov: "To Comrade Raul Castro Ruz, Cuban Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Havana"]

[Text] Esteemed comrade minister!

On behalf of the USSR Armed Forces and on my own behalf I cordially congratulate you and Cuban servicemen on the revolutionary holiday—the 37th anniversary of the national uprising.

The heroic events of 26 July 1953 marked the start of a new stage in the liberation struggle, which led to the formation of a socialist state in Cuba.

I wish you and all Revolutionary Armed Forces personnel great successes in resolving the tasks of strengthening Cuba's defense capability and ensuring its forward movement down the road of peace and progress.

[Signed] Marshal of the Soviet Union D. Yazov, USSR defense minister

Cuban Aid Policy, Situation Discussed

LD2807104890

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1230 GMT on 26 July broadcasts within its "Panorama" program a five-minute discussion on the situation in Cuba by program announcer Lidiya Podolnaya and political observer Igor Fesunenko.

Podolnaya begins by noting that with people taking refuge in foreign embassies in Havana and with Cuban troops blockading the embassies, a shadow is being cast over celebrations marking the anniversary of the Cuban national uprising. She says: "An analogy inevitably suggests itself. Well, let us remember what happened recently in the German Democratic Republic when masses of people fled to the Federal Republic of Germany, or in Albania—the same situation—where thousands of people gathered in embassies."

Fesunenko says that the analogy is a superficial one because "Cuba is its own country, with its own specific characteristics, and—it is important to emphasize—with its own socialism according to its own Cuban conception." Nevertheless, he agrees that the situation there is an "unhappy" one.

Asked whether the Cubans have gotten into an impasse owing to "excessive ideologization," Fesunenko notes that the Cuban leadership "unfortunately relate very sensitively [boleznenno] to any attempt, some kind of different evaluation in this country, the economy, politics, whatever, not coinciding with the social course. This is indeed the case."

Fesunenko continues, saying: "The situation is deteriorating at a very rapid pace. Debts to us, the Soviet Union, on the most, as it were, approximate assessments according, incidentally, to official data are somewhere at a level of 15 billion Rubles. That is, our Rubles. This would not seem so frightening, but Cuba has neither Soviet Rubles nor U.S. dollars to pay with." This says Fesunenko, means that every Cuban owes the Western world $700 and that Cuba, where living standards are poverty-stricken, cannot repay this debt in the foreseeable future, and now the situation is deteriorating.

[Podolnaya] "The opinion is being expressed in the press that at the present time we cannot afford to render aid to Cuba in the volume we did previously."

[Fesunenko] "I am absolutely in agreement with the formulation that we cannot afford the aid we did render, but this does not mean that we should not render Cuba any assistance. There exists a concept of solidarity; certain obligations exist which we took upon ourselves, and agreements should be fulfilled. There is a sacred rule: The law of international relations. Yes, we do not have the right to throw money to the winds in Cuba, Ethiopia, Angola, wherever we like, as we have done up to present, without monitoring it, and to do so in secret, without any kind of participation by the authorized representatives of our people, particularly people's deputies, parliament, the congress, and so forth. However, to normalize and put relations—economic relations—with Cuba in good order, on a level of truly equal rights, logical and priciple-governed relations, we are obliged to do that.

"I want to cite just one example: One out of every three spoons of sugar that we Soviet people eat is Cuban. We have turned Cuba—and we are to a considerable extent to blame because we provided the impetus for this; we encouraged Cuba in that process—into a supplier of sugar for us. Cuba has practically destroyed all plantations of other crops. Cuba has sown sugar cane on almost all of its arable land. As a result, in our country we began to wind down sugar production. We built sugar refineries in Cuba to process the sugar cane and because of this

Cuba cannot provide itself with foodstuffs. Therefore we import sugar from Cuba and supply it with foodstuffs. Cuba can no longer supply us and many other countries in the required quantities. It is forced to buy sugar for us from other countries, paying for that sugar in hard currency. Where does it get that foreign currency from? Obtaining oil from us, also at give-away prices, so to speak, but it is, moreover, money for us, it economizes it, and resells what is left. And owing to the resale of our oil it receives foreign currency in order to buy sugar in order to deliver it to us in exchange for raw materials, and foodstuffs, and so forth. In general, all of our relations have taken the shape of some kind of surrealistic picture and under the flag, the sign of acid, we are nearly always sending anything we like there, without thinking about our future or Cuba's future."

Podolnaya and Fesunenko conclude by saying it would not be a decent thing to leave Cuba in the lurch when it is experiencing such a difficult time.

Closure of Lumbering Project With Cuba Reported

PM2607133790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0830 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Report by L. Stroykov and O. Ivanov; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Cuban timber procurement workers will be leaving the Far East ahead of schedule. Incomplete and sad pages have been added to the history of the experience of economic cooperation between our countries. Our correspondents will provide the details.

[Correspondent] [Video shows settlement, accommodation, Cuban workers] It had been planned to turn the settlement of Sukpay in the middle of the taiga into the region's largest center for timber procurement and processing by 1995. Construction work had started there on the only Soviet-Cuban enterprise in the country. It had been planned to supply some of its output to the Island of Freedom. Under an intergovernmental agreement, the prospects looked rosy and long-term. But the Kubales Association lasted for just three years. Today the Cubans are packing their bags and going home. Both countries have accepted that the economic results of this cooperation have been inauspicious. [video shows stonemason Regino Diaz]

[Diaz, Russian translation read by reporter] We lived very well in the Soviet Union, and we were very surprised that we had to end our mission. Some of us had come here for four years and we're sad that everything's being cut short. But, one way or another, we have to leave and perform other tasks for our country. We don't want to go, but there's no other solution.

[Announcer] For the umpteenth time, real economics is at odds with politics. Fraternal cubic meters of timber are becoming like gold dust abroad. I don't know whether there is any Spanish equivalent of the Russian proverb "What good's a cheap product if you have to travel a long way to get it"—but this is precisely the situation. Today we're learning to calculate things once again, and this is good. New things can be distressing. The decision to begin cooperation was made at government level. But real people and real enterprises are no better off than they were before. The Cubans are leaving—what are we left with? [video shows N.A. Osadchuk, deputy general director of the Sukpay Timber Combine, identified by caption]

[Osadchuk] Here in Sukpay we're left with 9 million [units unspecified] in unfinished social, cultural, and consumer projects, supply buildings, and equipment with nobody to use it.

[Announcer] The experience of Soviet-Cuban cooperation in Sukpay is a lesson for many joint ventures. Today people in Khabarovsk Kray are discussing whether deserted tracts of land should be made available to timber procurement workers from the DPRK. Economists and the public will have to give their input, but it's still all a question of trade in raw materials that are profitable for departments but unprofitable for the state.

Political and Social

Gorbachev Speaks to Central Committee Secretariat

LD2807192690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] For the first time, TASS journalists have been invited to take part in a meeting of the CPSU Central Committee Secretariat. It was chaired by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev.

The matter of practical work by party organizations to implement the decisions of the 28th CPSU Congress was considered, and a plan of immediate propaganda and organizational measures was drawn up in connection with it. Comrade Dzasokhov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, made an announcement on this.

Summing up the lively discussion, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said that the main thing today is to overcome the present state of the party. You and I, he continued, have been drawn into internal party affairs and debates in connection with the congresses and the discussion of party documents. But this is already taking on a negative aspect. People have noticed this obsession with internal Party affairs and do not accept it. There is a certain alienation of the party from people's urgent concerns—this must be overcome. We must unite with the people and know what is at the center of their thoughts; we must remember and realize that the party is at the service of the people. For too long we have lived with the notion that the party must be thanked for this, that, and the other.

A flood of new ideas, documents, and laws is now raining down on society. People ought to be given help in understanding them, interpreting them, and understanding that all these innovations are designed to benefit the working people themselves.

I agree with those comrades, continued Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, who said that we must go down to the primary party organizations. That is where the most important things are being done at the moment, and party committees should in general actively make contacts, open up towards people, throw open the doors of party buildings. These should be venues for meetings with the public, debates, and the creation of party clubs. We must change our style of work itself, comrades; it must be centered around openness and more openness.

[Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1700 GMT on 28 July broadcasts a similar report on Gorbachev's summation of the debate at the Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat meeting. The Moscow televison report adds the following: "Addressing leaders of the mass media who were present, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev appealed for help for the party in its constructive and difficult work."]

We have to take a look at party cadres, said Mikhail Sergeyevich. Those capable of running things in a new way in line with the party's new functions should be supported; but those unprepared for this should return to their former places of employment. There must be renewal of cadres at every level. We must be bolder in recruiting for party work new and authoritative people with a fresh outlook, people who have already been brought to the fore by perestroyka itself, who have confirmed their solid commitment to society's interests and have made a name for themselves at the congress and in everyday public life. All this goes for the Central Committee apparatus as well.

The meeting looked at the preparations for the second phase of the constituent congress of the RSFSR Communist Party. A report was delivered on this by Polozkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Communist Party Central Committee.

One of the other points on the agenda was the attitude toward initiatives and actions conducted by various sociopolitical organizations and movements. CPSU Central Committee Secretary Kutsov reported on it. Describing the current state of our society in this regard, Comrade Gorbachev called for constructive dialogue and cooperation with all movements with an underlying constitutional and socialist foundation.

A detailed report on the Central Committee Secretariat meeting will be published in the press.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1846 GMT on 28 July transmits a similar report on Gorbachev's summation of the debate. The TASS English report adds the following:

["Gorbachev called for a constructive dialogue and cooperation with all movements that comply with the Soviet Constitution and are pro-socialist.

["'We shall give up the monopoly on truth and learn not only to speak, but also to hear,' he said.

["Public movements emerging in the country are often constructive and pro-perestroyka, Gorbachev said, calling for a broad coalition of all progressive forces in society."]

PRAVDA Views Meeting

PM2907174590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jul 90 Second Edition pp 1-2

[TASS correspondent V. Bezbrezhnyy and own correspondent A. Petrushov "Reportage from CPSU Central Committee Secretariat Session": "New Discussion on Staraya Ploshchad"]

[Text] For the first time two journalists have been invited to take part in covering an event which has always been considered closed to all but the narrow circle of people directly involved in it.

We are talking about a CPSU Central Committee Secretariat session. It was chaired by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The writers received the agenda the day before. And when we arrived at the Central Committee on the morning of 28 July we were provided with more detailed materials.

The question of party organizations' practical work in carrying out the decisions of the 28th CPSU Congress was examined and a plan for priority propaganda and organizational measures in this connection was elaborated. A.S. Dzasokhov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, delivered a report on this issue.

Party committees have been set the task of launching an extensive discussion on the Political Report, the resolution on it, the program statement "Toward Humane, Democratic Socialism," the CPSU Statutes, and other congress documents. In implementing this work it is necessary to rely on the experience acquired during the precongress debate and to seek new approaches in propaganda activity.

Party organizations devoted particular attention to the need to persistently and consistently implement the demands of the 28th CPSU Congress on renewing the forms of party activity, creating the conditions for the application of the new CPSU statutes, devoting constant attention to the work of primary party organizations, and enhancing the role of elected party organs.

Life is life. With its necessary and inevitable prosaic aspects. That is why the primary civic duty of every communist is to help ensure that the harvest is gathered in without losses, that new housing is built more quickly, that more quality goods are produced, that enterprises and municipal services are prepared for the winter, and that labor discipline is strengthened.

Even in the profoundly businesslike and, if you like, dry list of measures making up the essence of the plan for propaganda and organizational action, the living shoots of change born of the renewal of our life are clearly visible. Just take the section of the plan concerning relations with the mass media—a subject particularly close to the writers' hearts. Where it discusses CPSU publications the formulas are imperative if not tough in form. That is the way it has been, that is the way it is, and, we must assume, that is the way it will continue to be. And that is normal.

But here is a sign of our time: "Relations with mass media not belonging to the party should be based on an amicable and comradely footing. Subjects should be suggested for them to elaborate..."

Or else: "The USSR State Committee for the Press should be requested..."

The tone is different! And that too is normal.

Undoubtedly, a spirit of perestroyka imbues the recommendations to the party apparatus itself—about which, in particular, O.S. Shenin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, spoke. It was noted that the party's leading echelon should hold meetings at labor collectives and at people's places of residence with the intelligentsia, veterans, and the party and soviet aktiv. Being among the masses has now become the usual practice of the CPSU's leaders. This merely confirms that a good and useful thing will be expanded and deepened.

We cannot overlook the fact that the party is leaving behind the "ferroconcrete" approach which marred its ideological work in previous years. The plan repeatedly stresses that work should be conducted flexibly, in a differentiated fashion, taking account of public opinion, the interests of classes and social groups of the population, local conditions, and the features of the situation in specific collectives.

The CPSU Central Committee is geared to extensive dialogue with all sociopolitical organizations, associations, and movements, including those with alternative proposals or even thoroughly different positions on questions of economic reform, the transition to a regulated market, and other problems in this sphere.

But the dialogue for which the party is calling does not mean that it will allow itself to be defamed or will allow calls to be made for action that could destabilize the political situation in the country. The Secretariat called for the cohesion of all healthy forces, for cooperation, and for respect for the constitution and the supreme organs of legislative and executive power elected by the people.

The main thing today, M.S. Gorbachev said, generalizing the lively debate, is to overcome the party's current state. We have all been drawn into intraparty affairs and discussions, he continued. This was connected with the congresses and the discussion of party documents, but it is now acquiring negative overtones. People have noted this concentration on intraparty affairs and reject it. And we must overcome a certain detachment on the part of the party from people's urgent concerns. We need to stand together with the people, we need to know what they are thinking, and we need to remember and realize that the party is there to serve the people. For too long we have lived by the formula: Thank the party for this, that, and the other...

Society is now being inundated with new ideas, documents, and laws. We should help people to grasp them, to interpret them, and to realize that all these innovations are aimed at benefiting working people themselves. I agree with those comrades, M.S. Gorbachev continued, who have said that we need to delve more deeply into primary party organizations—that is where the main work is being done now. And, in general, party committees should actively engage in contacts, open up to people, and throw open the doors of party buildings—

meetings with the public and discussions should be held there, and party clubs should be organized. Comrades, we need to change the very style of our work. Its primary focus should be openness and nothing else!

We need to look at party cadres, M.S. Gorbachev said. Those who are capable of working in the new way and in line with the party's new functions should be supported. But those who are not prepared to do this should return to their previous jobs. Cadres should be renewed in all areas. We need to be bolder in selecting new and prestigious people with fresh ideas for party work. Those who have already been brought forward by perestroyka itself and who have confirmed their firm adherence to society's interests have made their presence clearly felt at the congress and in everyday social life. All this applies to the Central Committee apparatus too.

We must propagandize the congress' ideas not through theses and quotations but primarily through specific innovations in life. We need to be where people are. We must not duck painful aspects of society: ecology, land reform, and conversion. We need to eradicate the technocratic approach in our work. The party, if you like, should recognize its exacting role once and for all, the general secretary said. If necessary, we should also mount constructive opposition to soviets, economic managers, and so forth. We should scathingly criticize any deadwood in society and the imposition of artificial models of life and work on people.

I call on those mass media leaders present here to help the party in its constructive and difficult work, M.S. Gorbachev said. Communists in the press should work creatively and clearly. The people and perestroyka need the party, but the party needs to be transformed and renewed so as to really become a party of civic consensus. We have enormous reserves, comrades. Even in previous decades, despite the well known mistakes, deformations, and sacrifices, our people made a substantial contribution to the development of world civilization. Capitalism learned a great deal from us, particularly in the social sphere. And there is no doubt that perestroyka will also enrich progress and world human experience.

The session discussed preparations for holding the second phase of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Communist Party Constituent Congress. A report on this was made by I.K. Polozkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the RSFSR Communist Party Central Committee.

"On the Attitude to Initiatives and Actions Implemented by Various Sociopolitical Organizations and Movements" was the title of another item on the agenda. V.A. Kuptsov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, provided information on it. Concern was expressed in connection with the fact that the activities of certain organizations and movements recently have provoked a growth in social and political tension.

Describing the current state of our society in this connection, M.S. Gorbachev called for constructive dialogue and cooperation with all those who take a constitutional, socialist approach. We must adopt everything that is useful, reject our monopoly on the truth, and finally learn not just to talk and preach, but to listen as well. There is much that is sensible and genuinely based on perestroyka to be found in the social movements emerging today, and therefore it is particularly necessary, as was stated at the congress, for there to be a broad coalition of all progressive forces in society, M.S. Gorbachev stressed.

...Say what you will, party glasnost notably matured following the 19th Party Conference. And the 28th congress brought it maturity and confidence. And this inspires hope in us journalists. After all, many people who have firmly linked their lives and careers to the CPSU and who have devoted their creative work to the ideals of reviving the party and the country work for the press. And if the Central Committee is calling on communists to build relations with mass media not belonging to the party in a comradely fashion, then that is all the more reason for us to want relations between party committees and party newspapers to be as trusting and open as possible. This is not a journalistic whim but a demand of our complex and contradictory times, when the multiparty system—with all that that implies—is becoming a reality. The times demand that we rally our forces. And if we call ourselves people of like mind, then we should act as such—in everything.

So there you have the first report from a CPSU Central Committee Secretariat session. A new Secretariat of a new Central Committee, and, we would like to believe, of a renewed party.

Bakatin Discusses Decree Banning Armed Groups

LD2707155790 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1420 GMT 27 Jul 90

[News conference for Soviet and foreign journalists held at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center in Moscow on 27 July—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] A briefing was held for Soviet and foreign journalists at the Press Center of the USSR Foreign Ministry today. Vadim Viktorovich Bakatin, a member of the Presidential Council and USSR Interior Minister, told those assembled about some measures to implement the decree by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, president of our country, banning the creation of armed formations not envisaged by USSR legislation and ordering the confiscation of arms in cases where they are being stored illegally. In his introductory statement, he said:

[Bakatin] The USSR president's decree of 25 July is a normal, constructive, and strictly constitutional act on the president's part. It is a natural reaction to processes which might assume a completely uncontrollable character if they are not cut short in time—an example of which is the events going on today before our eyes in the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic. What I would like least of all is for us to start raising an unnecessary hullabaloo over this decree before we have even begun to implement it, and thereby, as they say, please those who have an interest in destabilizing the situation in the country.

I do not intend to comment on the decree. I simply do not have the right to comment on it. As interior minister, I am simply obliged to implement it, and to do so strictly and meticulously, as they say. The decree says everything clearly. It is all understandable and simple. It says armed formations not envisaged by legislation are illegal and subject to disbandment. This is a perfectly constitutional, understandable, and principled stance, the president's stance, which is identical for everybody, for any republics. It is not selective, and it does not have any kind of bias toward one republic or another. The president is defending the constitution. He is instructing republican bodies, above all, to engage in this. As you know, their weight is growing more and more, and this process is continuing.

The USSR Interior Ministry is obliged, in case of need, to assist local authorities in disarming by force those who do not submit to the decree, if that happens. These operations are also, undoubtedly, legal, and fall under specific articles of the Soviet Union's criminal code. Yesterday Order Number 279 of the USSR Interior Ministry was issued, which defines the rules of engagement for personnel under these conditions. I can say firmly that together with republican authorities—specifically, I stress, together with republican authorities—we are in a position to solve this task, according to the operational data that we have.

Organized formations in the Baltics, Moldavia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan illegally possess arms. It is a relatively small quantity, and all these formations deny that they have weapons, but nevertheless, operational data testify to the contrary. This will therefore be work for operational search services above all.

There is a different situation in Armenia, where the stance of the republic's leadership, including the republic's party leadership, today contradicts the Constitution and common sense, and is directed at the illegal establishment of armed formations. As a result of such stances, illegal armed formations are, strictly speaking, operating almost legally in the republic, and armed bandit operations are being carried out virtually daily.

A session of the Armenian parliament is in progress now. The parliament has set up a commission to prepare proposals on the implementation of the president's decree and with regard to that decree. I have information that there are among the deputies quite a few courageous and responsible people who insist that a stop be put to this hopeless, murderous policy, and demand that disarmement measures be adopted. Unfortunately, there are also other opinions among the deputies. Well, we will not hurry. I hope that, ultimately, reason will prevail.

Thank you for your attention. I am prepared to answer your questions.

[Unidentified correspondent] MOLOD UKRAINY. We are talking about Armenia all the time in connection with this decree. Meanwhile, though, attempts have already been made in other republics to set up some sort of paramilitary formations and frontier forces, and some republics' sovereignty declarations contain points that envisage the establishment of similar formations—in particular, the declaration on the Ukraine's sovereignty contains such a point. So I have a question for you, Vadim Viktorovich. Might this decree be applied in the future to restrict these constitutional desires of the Republics?

[Bakatin] I understand this decree in a broad sense. I understand it to the extent that it comes within the president's powers. He believes perfectly justly, on the basis of the Constitution and his powers, that the establishment of any other armed—I stress that—formations is illegal. Therefore, if anybody intends to do that, to set up armed formations, they will be illegal and come under this decree.

[Kosyrev] Vladimir Kosyrev, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. How will the functions of the Interior Ministry troops and those of the Soviet Army be distributed in the implementation of the president's decree?

[Bakatin] Soviet Army troops do not have the right to do anything without the introduction of a state of emergency. Therefore, I will put it this way, that if we reach such a situation—and I would not really be very happy for a state of emergency to be introduced—then Soviet Army units will also operate, and we will distribute functions there somehow. Until that regime is introduced, we will manage with our own forces.

[Announcer] Vadim Viktorovich Bakatin also answered other questions from Soviet and foreign correspondents.

TASS on Bakatin's Remarks

LD2707161890 Moscow TASS in English
1553 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Borisov and Igor Peskov]

[Text] Moscow July 27 TASS—President Gorbachev's decree banning armed groups and ordering the confiscation of illegal weapons is a constructive reaction towards developments in the country, Soviet Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin told reporters here today.

Commenting at a press conference on Gorbachev's decree, Bakatin said that local authorities will be charged with enforcing [words indistinct].

The Interior Ministry will help local authorities to forcefully disarm those who refuse to abide by the order, he said.

Only those who want to destabilise the situation in the country can benefit from the "unnecessary fuss" certain circles raise about the document, the minister stressed.

On Thursday, the Interior Ministry issued instructions for its officers about the implementation of the presidential decree, Bakatin said.

The Interior Ministry and republican authorities are capable of enforcing the decree, he said.

Several illegal armed groups in the Baltic Republics, Moldavia, Georgia and Azerbaijan have illegal arms, he said.

The situation in Armenia is more complex. The position of the republic's leadership contradicts the Soviet Constitution and is aimed to set up illegal armed units, he said.

As a result illegal armed units have an almost legitimate status in the republic, engaging in daily criminal activities, he said.

Many criminals have joined these units and, with the connivance of Armenian law enforcement bodies, continue seizing arms. This year, criminals in Armenia seized 6,700 weapons, including 1,200 sub-machine guns.

There are 4.7 million registered guns in the Soviet Union, including 3.6 million in private hands and 1.1 million at various organisations. 11,686 stolen guns are still at large, in troubled areas a total of 164,313 guns have been seized or handed in to authorities, Bakatin said.

He pointed to a rise in crime involving firearms. There were 4,688 such cases in 1985, compared to 3,432 in the first half of this year.

Forces to implement the presidential decree will be used after consultations with republican governments, however some "local operations" do not require such consultations, Bakatin said .

"It is best not to use force, but if this will be necessary to protect the constitution and the law, it will be used," the minister said.

Presidential spokesman Arkadiy Maslennikov, who also took part in the press conference, said that Gorbachev's decree is part of the president's and government effort to promote law and order to create a law-governed state.

[Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1700 GMT on 27 July, during the "Vremya" newscast, broadcasts a 3.5-minute report on USSR Interior Minister V.V. Bakatin's news conference at the Foreign Ministry Press Center on 27 July. The Moscow Television version adds the following answer by Bakatin after an unidentified correspondent asks, "To what extent are you counting on the loyalty of the law enforcement bodies in the republics?":

[That is a very important question. The local law enforcement bodies are unfortunately finding themselves practically powerless to resolve the so-called interethnic conflicts, as we coyly call them now. But I think if we call things by their proper names, the sourse of the conflicts is the most primitive caveman nationalism. So you are right about this and in these situations of interethnic conflict, we are simply forced to rely mainly upon the units of the Internal Troops, who so far are adhering to the spirit and letter of internationalism."]

Areas 'Relatively Calm'

LD2707171490 Moscow TASS in English 1643 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow July 27 TASS—Soviet troubled areas are relatively calm two days after President Gorbachev ordered illegal armed groups to hand over their weapons and disband, Soviet Interior Ministry officials told TASS.

Authorities are explaining the presidential order to residents in troubled areas, they said.

Reports from Armenia indicate that there have been no attempts to seize weapons or hostages there.

The Interior Troops Headquarters is prepared to enforce the presidential decree, officials said.

Troops will be used to disarm illegal units only if local authorities fail to do this.

A state of emergency could be imposed in some areas allowing full use of interior troops and Soviet Armed Forces to protect civilians and state interests, they said.

Commenting on Gorbachev's order Major General Vladislav Safonov, who for a long time served as military commander in Nagorno-Karabakh, said the decree gave sweeping powers to the troops.

"I am satisfied with the presidential decree. It gives several advantages to the troops, allowing them to act boldly and without looking back. Until recently we had to explain every step we made," he said.

"Now we don't have to wait until we are shot at. If there are people who refuse to abide by the decree and give up arms, we will take drastic measures against them. Instead of releasing those detained with arms, we will hand them over to law enforcement bodies for criminal investigation," he said.

Gorbachev Chairs Meeting on Economic Reform

PM2807172190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 1

[M. Berger report: "Discussion With the President on Reform"]

[Text] A working meeting between USSR President M.S. Gorbachev and journalists, academics, and writers specializing in economic problems was held in the Kremlin on 27 July.

There was a wide-ranging discussion on questions of the socioeconomic situation and ways of solving the problems facing the country.

Taking part in the discussion were Yu. Apenchenko, A. Auzan, V. Badov, M. Berger, P. Bunich, A. Vavilov, Ye. Gaydar, N. Zhelnorova, I. Korolev, I. Klyamkin, Ya. Kuzminov, V. Kuzmishchev, O. Latsis, Ye. Leontyeva, I. Nit, N. Petrakov, G. Pisarevskiy, L. Piyasheva, A. Rubtsov, E. Sagalayev, V. Selyunin, A. Strelyanyy, M. Khodorkovskiy, Yu. Chernichenko, N. Shmelev, G. Yavlinskiy, Ye. Yakovlev, and Yu. Yakutin.

Addressing the meeting participants, M.S. Gorbachev called for all supporters of perestroyka to pool their intellectual efforts in the current crucial period of transition to the market economy.

Ye. Primakov and A. Yakovlev, members of the Presidential Council, took part in the meeting.

This informal discussion about the future of reform, its long-term and more immediate aims, and ways of achieving them lasted more than four hours. Everyone was allowed to speak.

The transition to the market, as world experience shows, is a difficult, slow, and painful operation. What is society's state of mind and mood on the threshold of the adoption of fundamental market solutions? What is the "state" of the country's government, which is called upon to elaborate and implement a range of instruments to assimilate the new relationships in the economy? The success and the cost of the transition to the market will depend on the answers to those questions.

Nobody was under any illusions when assessing the current situation, nobody sidestepped the mistakes which have been and are being made in the course of the reform. And when the idea was voiced for the umpteenth time that we should act one way rather than another in a certain situation, the president observed: Who knew how to act before, in the initial stages of perestroyka? To which one of the meeting participants boldly replied: "I did." We ought to create a commission, the president said, out of hotheads like this who are absolutely confident about how to proceed. Except that practice shows that hotheads cool down pretty quickly when it comes to actually carrying ideas out. We need to be able to unite our vision of the problem with reality, otherwise nothing will come of it. Often people choose and try to introduce a certain model without taking account of these realities—which is not just unproductive, but also differs little from our former practice of "implementing" certain ideas and schemes.

What might be called one of the main subjects of the discussion was the following: Democrats should not allow themselves to be discredited, they should not provide ammunition for conservatives. And—no less importantly—they should reach consensus among themselves so as to ensure that the supporters of transformations and the forces opting for the market can find common ground, whatever the differences in their approaches.

Is it right to talk about a split as being intolerable, Yu. Chernichenko asked, when there have been no real improvements or real changes? Yes, a split is inevitable, M. Gorbachev replied—but a split with those who reject change rather than among those advocating society's renewal. I am not calling on you to keep silent or behave quietly, but we must not permit a split to occur in the center-left [levyy tsentr], which is gathering strength. The greatest danger is of democrats' fighting among themselves.

The president was directly asked whether there is consensus between the center and Russia. Many speakers said that this—and, of course, consensus with the other republics—will in practice determine the fate of reform. M. Gorbachev replied that agreement has been reached on coordinating the reform program with Russia. As for the Union government, in the president's opinion it is entirely capable of undertaking radical economic transformations and needs constructive support. Not all those present agreed with this. It might be the absolutely ideal program, but it was not the first program to emerge over the past seven months and it simply might not be supported by the population. I. Klyamkin formulated the thesis in very tough terms: The government has run out of political time. This means that it will have to pay for an extension using the president's political time.

Simultaneously returning to this issue, M. Gorbachev stressed that he was not calling for the government to be protected from criticism, but that he is convinced the government has enough strength to implement the planned reforms.

Yes, the government makes mistakes, and it may do so every day—like any working government, O. Latsis said in his speech. But that too is the reason why it may be criticized every day.

Or at least the following day, Gorbachev noted.

O. Latsis also touched on the problem of safeguarding society during the transition to the market. But this should be active protection—that is, it is a question of the engine in the reform mechanism, not the brakes. An active employment policy should consist not in preserving artificial jobs but in resolutely releasing people where necessary, giving them the opportunity to acquire new skills and new jobs. We should also change our policy in the sphere of housing—the number one commodity worldwide. Many people in the West cannot understand the paradox whereby people have money but no housing, while the state has housing but no money. But the state doesn't sell its housing, rather it says: Wait in line and I'll give it to you for free. It should have been sold off long ago, while keeping open the possibility, of course, that the poor or badly-off can obtain housing free or at preferential prices. In the current state of affairs more free or preferential benefits are available to the rich. A director will get a state apartment more quickly, while a poor worker has to live in a hostel.

We must improve the perestroyka formula, A. Auzan proposed. It has sidestepped its main subject—the consumer. To the slogan "Land for the peasant, factories for the worker" should be added "The market for the consumer."

The state of affairs in the consumer market was assessed as intolerable and, quite simply, socially dangerous. N. Shmelev said that three or four years ago we lost our chance to switch to the market without considerable foreign support or injections of goods. We will not be able to get by without increasing our imports of goods, otherwise tension in society will grow and economic efficiency will drop, since there is less and less incentive to work well when the stores are empty. If we don't make the ruble work, there will be no ruble left; if we don't cool down our hot money, we will find ourselves in a very difficult position. We cannot delay any longer; we are catastrophically short of time.

The president said that, despite all the difficulties and differences in individual countries' positions, we can count on support—including financial support. There is also, of course, the point of view that says: The harder things are for us without aid, the more radically we will reform. But I must say that a lack of room to maneuver could force us into stricter regulation through greater interference in economic activity. I am convinced the world needs our perestroyka no less than we do.

The participants in the discussion were unanimous in the belief that in order for the reforms to succeed we need to ensure freedom of economic initiative as quickly as possible, to maintain and develop enterprise, and to remove artificial restrictions in the sphere of foreign economic cooperation.

I think we have listened to each other, the president said, closing the discussion.

Gorbachev Signs Decree on Union-Republic Funds

LD2907124590 Moscow TASS in English 1235 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow July 29 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev today signed a decree on the interaction between union and republican bodies on finance and credit matters during the period of preparation of a new union treaty.

"The process of converting institutions of state-run specialised banks into commercial banks has been started in a number of union republics," the decree points out.

"The role of state banks is rising. Their independence is being strengthened and responsibility enhanced. At the same time republican and union bodies make some decisions without taking into account the actually established economic ties and cooperation of republics within the framework of the USSR as well as lasting interests of the entire country and its citizens.

"In order to prevent negative trends and concentrate efforts on the solution of urgent tasks and on the formation of an all-union market, it is essential to work out common principles and approaches to the organisation of financial and credit relations in the USSR and to use them in preparing a union treaty," the decree says.

"With this end in view, the Supreme Soviets of the Union Republics have been recommended to refrain, until a new union treaty is concluded, from adopting and applying legislative acts that would disrupt the financial and banking system.

"Joint efforts of all union republics and the pursuance of an active, coordinated monetary, finance and budgetary policy are necessary to normalise the country's finances," the decree says.

The document envisages setting up a Council of the State Bank (Gosbank) of the USSR, to consist of the chairman of the Gosbank board and the leaders of the state banks of the union republics, to work out a common credit-and-monetary policy and to jointly manage the banking system until the conclusion of a union treaty.

In addition, the procedure, established by the current legislation, for the issue of loans and the carrying out of settlements by the banks of the USSR shall remain in effect until the conclusion of a new union treaty.

Further on Finance Decree

LD2907224190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Our editorial office has received a decree by the president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the interaction of Union and republican bodies dealing with finance and credit questions during the period of the preparation of a new Union treaty.

The transition to a market economy and the strengthening and development of the sovereignty of Union republics presupposes the radical restructuring of financial and credit-money relations in the country, it states. In a number of Union republics, practical measures are being taken to restructure the financial and banking system. The process of transforming the institutions of state-specialized banks into commercial banks has begun and the role of state banks is being enhanced, their independence strengthened, and their accountability intensified. All this reflects objective tendencies. At the same time, certain decisions of republican and union bodies are being made without consideration for the economic links existing in reality, the interaction of the republics within the framework of the USSR, and the long-term interests of the whole of our country and its citizens.

To avert negative tendencies, consolidate efforts in tackling urgent tasks, and form an all-Union market it is necessary to elaborate unified principles and approaches to organizing finance and credit relations in the USSR and to use them in the preparation of a Union treaty.

For these purposes, I resolve that:

First, the USSR Council of Ministers, in conjunction with the Union republics, undertake a profound study of finance, credit, and other economic issues that are the subject of a new Union treaty, and recommend that the supreme soviets of Union republics refrain, prior to the conclusion of a new Union treaty, from adopting and applying legislative acts that disrupt the existing finance and banking system;

Second, for the elaboration of a common monetary and credit policy and the joint administration of the banking system in the period prior to the conclusion of a Union treaty, a Council of the USSR State Bank be formed, consisting of the chairman of the Board of the USSR Gosbank and the leaders of the state banks of Union republics; to be guided in this work by the interests of the sovereign Union republics and the need to ensure the unity of the USSR State Bank system; to propose to the USSR Supreme Soviet to examine concurrently with the draft law on the USSR State Bank the issue of its accountability; prior to the conclusion of a new Union treaty, to preserve the procedure stipulated by existing legislation for issuing loans by USSR banks and the implementation of transactions;

Third, I draw the attention of the Supreme Soviets of the Union republics to the negative socioeconomic consequences that can be caused by the destruction of the country's unified money system and by the introduction of republican money with a restricted sphere of circulation.

To improve the country's finances, the common efforts of all union republics and the conduct of an active and coordinated money and budget-finance policy is needed. I propose that the Supreme Soviets of the Union republics, when drawing up their budgets for 1991 and subsequent years, should strive to ensure that they are balanced as far as possible and be strictly guided by the new tax legislation.

We have broadcast a decree by the USSR President. Tomorrow it will be published in the papers.

Presidential Decree Issued on Foreign Trade

LD2407201190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] A decree of the president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the introduction of changes in the foreign economic practice of the Soviet Union.

In connection with the transfer to a market economy and the course toward openness and wider participation in world economic ties, as well as taking a realistic account of the socioeconomic and political changes taking place in CEMA member countries and in the world as a whole, I decree:

First: The USSR Council of Ministers is to ensure the transfer from 1 January 1991, in economic relations with other CEMA member countries, to settlements at world prices and in freely convertible currency. Draft laws and other acts necessary for the legal support of this transfer are to be submitted to the USSR Supreme Soviet;

Second: In implementing measures to further expand economic cooperation with developing countries, they are to be based on principles of mutual benefit and mutual interest, using international standards and practice as a guide. The starting point is to be the consideration that economic assistance should be rendered taking into account the realistic capabilities of our country;

Third: The USSR Council of Ministers and the councils of ministers of the Union republics, making maximum use of the new forms of economic interaction with foreign countries, are to ensure the creation of conditions for the extensive involvement of enterprises and associations in foreign economic relations, for the purpose of increasing export potential and boosting the effectiveness of economic and scientific-technical cooperation.

Ex-KGB General Discusses Criminal Proceedings

LD2707224590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2100 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Interview with Oleg Kalugin, former KGB major general, by correspondent Obraztsov on 27 July; place not given; from the "Television News Service" program—recorded]

[Text] [Obraztsov] Oleg Danilovich, does the commencement of criminal proceedings against you not constitute a hindrance to the electoral campaign in Krasnodar?

[Kalugin] No, it does not. Just this morning, I received a certificate [waves certificate] of a candidate USSR people's deputy. And today my electoral campaign in Krasnodar Kray is beginning. As far as the accusation itself is concerned, then, as is evident from the accusation in the military procuracy's statement published in yesterday's IZVESTIYA, in essence there is, in fact, no actual case. There are suggestions; there are accusations; but the case is empty. There is no evidence confirming the disclosure of state secrets. Moreover, I can say in complete conscience—anyway, I have been occupied with the problems of state security for over 30 years—that I have not disclosed state secrets. It seems that people are committed to there being real and genuine changes in our country. [video shows Obraztsov and Kalugin talking near a street]

Paper Examines Kalugin's Claims

LD2807105190 Moscow TASS in English 1018 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow July 28 TASS—"As the slander campaign against the Soviet Communist Party is mounting, the appearance of Kalugin on the political scene is not fortuitous," Viktor Ilyukhin, head of the Department for Supervising Compliance With State Security Laws in the USSR Public Prosecutor's Office, writes in the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper today.

He comments on critical statements by the former major-general of the USSR State Security Committee (KGB) addressed to the KGB. Kalugin was stripped of his rank and medals for actions "smearing the honour and dignity of a state security agencies' officer".

"Kalugin contends that the activity of the present KGB is 'out- and-out lawlessness and infringement upon human rights' and that in its work the service 'clings to old Stalinist methods'," Ilyukhin writes.

"The charge as serious as this one is based, possibly, only on some of Soviet intelligence's faults, on Kalugin's conflicts on personal and service grounds with KGB senior executives and, as he put it, on 'Mafia departmental secrecy'," Ilyukhin writes.

"Yes, failures and blunders did occur in the intelligence and counterintelligence work. It is difficult to secure oneself against them. They will continue to occur until two-faced people of the Kalugin type work in state security agencies, although their number is small. [sentence as received]

"For instance, the former general publicly states that he has a clear conscience. If this is so, why then did it lay dormant for thirty years of his work in the KGB? Why did he not protest, why did he not quit the KGB which, according to him, employs illegal Mafia-like methods?

"As long as Kalugin was on the KGB's payroll, was promoted to higher military ranks and awarded with medals, he kept silence," Ilyukhin writes.

He describes as false Kalugin's arguments that KGB has nothing left to do. "Security officers constanty investigate cases of high treason, espionage, contraband and violations of currency operations rules.

"KGB investigators are actively probing cases of corruption, bribe-taking, murder and racketeering. They return to the state tens of millions Rubles annually. They foil frequent attempts to smuggle abroad historic artifacts of our people.

"Although the KGB staff is not large, no matter how much Kalugin would like to bloat it, thus scaring people, it carries out an intense work to investigate crimes perpetrated on the grounds of inter-ethnic conflicts.

"KGB officers and the Public Prosecutor's Office exert enormous efforts to rehabilitate the victims of the Stalinist repressions." Ilyukhin emphasises that he states this with responsibility, proceeding from his own practice. "Kalugin is well-informed but he deliberately misinforms people."

Prime Minister Discusses Government Issues

LD2707205390 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1735 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Address by USSR Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov; date and place of address not given; from the "In the USSR Government" program—recorded]

[Text] Good evening, esteemed comrades. Only one week has passed since our last television meeting, but life insistently demands that the talk be continued.

In today's conversation I would like to touch upon three problems. As is known, a week ago there was a joint meeting of the Presidential Council and the Federation Council. This meeting discussed a number of questions, including organizational measures for the development of economic reforms and the change to market relations. There is no need for me to dwell in detail on my report, as it was published in IZVESTIYA. I can only say that a vast amount of work now lies ahead, and there was discussion precisely on this at the joint meeting. In this period we have to elaborate, examine, and correspondingly introduce or even adopt finalized decisions on 100 normative documents. About 20 of these will be laws of the Supreme Soviet, and we must prepare them before the autumn session. A number of decisions will be formulated—examined and formulated—by presidential decrees. Decisions of the USSR Council of Ministers will be issued and confirmed.

Also, of course, the Union republics must carry out a vast amount of work to create the normative basis for the change to a market economy. Work is now underway. We are working at full speed, and we hope that we will cope in the timeframe which has been set. A special commission is at work, which was set up by the Council of Ministers to look at all possible alternative proposals. It is headed by Academician Aganbegyan. We hope that they will also examine all the proposals which are now coming in to us, and we will, to the greatest possible extent, take them into account in the program which we will put before the USSR Supreme Soviet.

At the meeting of the Presidential Council and the Federation Council very serious complaints were made that in drawing up various documents we work very little with the Union republics. As a rule the Union republics only give their conclusions about our proposals, and I consider that these utterances and complaints were quite justified, because, to hope that only the Center is able to create all the laws or the other documents which will regulate our economic life would evidently be just an illusion. Therefore, our task now is to organize very close work, very close links with the Union republics. During the past week, over a period of two days, an extended meeting of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers examined two fundamental questions. The chairmen of the councils of ministers of the Union republics or their representatives were present at the meeting.

The first question was the work of the agroindustrial complex in market conditions, that is 1991, and the work of light industry. I would like to remind you that a year ago the management of the agroindustrial complex and of light industry was handed over to the Union republics. One might ask why, then, was it necessary to assemble in the Center, in the central government, and discuss these problems. But the discussion of these two very important national economic complexes shows that we need to seek out the correct interrelationships; both Union republics among themselves and the republics must have normal relations with the Center, not to mention that the question, in itself, is very urgent. It concerns the provision of foodstuffs to the people. It concerns the production of consumer goods. But the main thing—I have drawn this conclusion for myself, and the comrades who took part in this meeting did likewise—the main thing is that we really must seek out the optimal combination in these new conditions.

In order to get an impression of how integrated we now are, and how we should take this into account in our approach to solving all questions, I would like to cite this data: If one takes the whole volume of deliveries of goods from one republic to another, this comprises one quarter of the gross national product. That is, one quarter of the whole product which is produced in the country is moved from one republic to another. In light industry approximately one third of the output in some degree or other moves from one republic to another. And if one speaks about the food industry I would cite only these figures so that we should have an idea of what goes on. Georgia, for example, imports food products worth R205 million and exports food products worth R268 million. For Belorussia the relevant figures are R337 million and R389 million.

The same goes for Latvia and other Union republics. This demonstrates once again just how integrated we are, and so in the circumstances we must on the one hand create preconditions for the republics to work together and the market to begin to function, while at the same time we are also obliged to find regulators that will on no account disrupt the ties that have formed over decades.

Unfortunately, many people are prompting us to set up isolated markets of some sort. As I see it, this must not be allowed. If we are going to set up separate national markets of some sort, and not exploit this great economic field of activity, we only stand to lose. Our market has great capacity, and all of our republics must serve it. On this I shall perhaps end this part of my report and move on to the next point.

Several days ago the USSR Council of Ministers examined and endorsed the program for the socioeconomic development of the mining towns and villages in the Ukrainian republic. That decision, which I would like to show you [holds document up to camera]—this is what it looks like, quite impressive and lengthy. It develops the well known decision No. 608. I'm not going to dwell in detail on what the decision stipulates, the measures it maps out, but I would like to mention that under this decision alone, commissioning of housing will be 1.6 times greater in the future five-year period than in the 12th five-year plan, hospitals five times greater, polyclinics four times greater, and schools 1.7 times greater.

I ought to tell you that this decision is the last in a series of decisions adopted on just one specific section of decision No. 608, i.e., on the socioeconomic development of the coal regions. Similar decisions have already been adopted on the Kuzbass, on Karaganda, on the Pechora coal basin, and Rostov oblast. The drawing up of these decisions, proposals, and measures, required a very great deal of time, of course. We spent a few months producing them, including visits to the sites, and a profound analysis of the socioeconomic situation in the various areas.

I said that these decisions give substance to the well-known decision No. 608, so I'd like to dwell a little on this well-known decision and give some data on how it is being fulfilled. First, after someone started the ball rolling, it has now been labelled the infamous decision. I do not agree with this. I think that this will be a generally known decison. For all the shortcomings of the decision—and shortcomings there are of course, because it is evidently impossible to cover everything and sort out all the problems in a short space of time—but all the same, despite all the shortcomings, we consider the decision to be fundamental, and it constitutes a very substantial basis for tackling the social issues that have arisen in the coal industry. What has been done over this period? Pay questions were settled immediately. These questions are specific to the coal industry, and so they required an immediate solution, and the government settled this matter during those months.

Second, pension provision. I don't think I need to talk about pension provision for our coal workers, our miners, because the law on pensions has been published, and this is dealt with in a fairly detailed way there. I can only say that everything we agreed on last year was fully incorporated in the law on pensions, and the government defended these items during the discussion of the law on pensions in the Supreme Soviet. We punctiliously fulfilled our pledges on leave. A document was recently signed in which all the accords that were reached last summer were again confirmed. In this period, many other day-to-day matters affecting the lives of our miners were also dealt with. But it would evidently not be objectively true to say that everything has been done. I am far from believing this to be the case, and I think that there are, of course, very major shortcomings here on which we have to work—all of us. The first thing I'd single out is the issue of independence. A very great deal is currently being written on this, and the miners are telling us there is no independence. I think there really is a nexus of contradictions here. On the one hand, we have given enterprises the right to independence, and at the same time they don't have the means to exercise this right because a number of issues have not been sorted out. These include issues to do with price-setting and administrative responsibility. In other words, there are a number of problems that have to be tackled.

In our view the miners should get together in the near future with the government, closely study these problems yet again, and find ways of giving more independence to the coal enterprises. We will give our full support to this idea. I believe that the decision is not being implemented, and here the miners are right when they say there are great interruptions in the area of material and technical supply, especially timber for mine shaft supports. This is a correct demand, and we realize that our timber industry is failing in this respect and that the arrears are very great. This naturally alarms us, and we are looking at this question systematically. I recently met the managing directors of the timber industry and placed this question before them.

I think that construction materials for towns and settlements in the coal mining regions of our country are another unsolved question which requires immediate solution. A shortage, a very large shortage of these materials has developed in our country. As far as the miners are concerned, Comrade Ryabev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, has now been instructed to work out in the very near future—probably in August—a special program for supplying our mining settlements and towns with these materials. We believe that this problem can be resolved within two or three years.

In order to keep the implementation of this well-known decision under constant control, a special state and public commission was set up. It is headed by a deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. It is carrying out systematic, on-the-spot checks of the situation.

I know that on the 11th day of their strike, among other political demands by the miners was a call for the government to resign. Frankly speaking, I had considered that there would be a more respectful attitude to the government, a government which had done a very large amount of work in the course of a year, jointly with the miners, to tackle the most difficult social and economic problems. These could not of course be sorted out in a year, but we nevertheless laid a very substantial foundation. I think that the miners themselves will ultimately come to see for themselves what is what, so I will not dwell on this matter any longer.

The last topic I want to touch on today is the question of old loans taken out by the state. The USSR Council of Ministers and I personally receive numerous letters from citizens, above all, veterans of the Great Patriotic War and labor veterans, who justifiably express dissatisfaction over the lengthy delay in the repayment of loans that were floated during the 1950's. I remind you that loan bonds were issued on a mass scale for the specific purpose of helping the national economy to get back on its feet after the Great Patriotic War. Industrial and agricultural workers—everybody—took part in this, doing what they could to help the state, and I wish to remind you that less well-off people, people with large families, pensioners, and students also subscribed to the loans. It is difficult to exaggerate the contribution made by the older generation of Soviet people in assisting the state at that difficult time. A total of R26 billion was mobilized in this way toward the end of...[changes thought] in the mid-50's. As you know, a decision was adopted in 1957 to freeze the payment of loans for 20 years. It was only in 1974 that repayment of the loan began. The plan was to complete the repayment of loans in 1990, but unfortunately the state still owes our citizens R6.5 million. Most of the bonds belong to members of the older generation, to veterans, invalids—people who really did help out at that time. Today they are entitled to expect the state to settle the outstanding debt on old loans before the beginning of the transition to a market economy. Therefore, in spite of the fact that our country's financial situation is, as you know, extremely difficult at the moment, the Council of Ministers has examined this question and deemed it necessary to pay off the old loans in the very near future. The USSR Ministry of Finance and the State Bank have been instructed to start repaying loans outstanding from 1955-56 on 1 August, with the aim of paying off all state debts in full by 15 December.

I think that's all I can tell you today. All the best, comrades.

Smirnov-Astashvili Trial Continues

LD2707144790

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1130 GMT on 27 July, in its "Television News Service" program, broadcasts a two-minute report by Sergey Chernov on the trial in Moscow of Pamyat society activist Smirnov-Ashtashvili in connection with the "well-known incident" at the Central House of the Men of Letters on 18 January.

The report begins with video shots of scenes in the street, a group of people shouting that at such a time of crisis one has to come to grips with Zionists; policemen are standing by, watching.

Chernov then says: "This court hearing at the Moscow City Court has attracted everyone's attention, and above all the attention of those who are in sympathy with the Pamyat society and one of its leaders, Smirnov-Astashvili, who, as a participant in the disturbances at the Central House of Men of Letters on 18 January this year who is accused of anti-Semitism and of stirring up ethnic differences."

Judge A. Muratov, identified by caption, then says that this is in fact the preparatory part of the court session at which each participant in the trial is familiarized with his rights and where they can make applications at the given moment.

Chernov continues: "At the court hearing, at the request of the prosecutor, plaintiffs representing the organization have been allowed—people's deputies of the USSR Yuriy Chernechenko and Yuriy Afanasyev, and the well known lawyer Andrey Makarov. There was also a petition on the part of the accused, asking for a counsel for the defense to be permitted and rejecting the lawyer who was present throughout the entire court hearing.

Now the court hearing will continue on 2 August. In two or three days time Smirnov-Astashvili is promising to get a news conference together and answer journalists' questions."

The video shows Smirnov-Astashvili in court and walking away after the hearing.

Legislators Fear Press Law Will Be 'Inoperable'

LD2707215190 Moscow TASS in English 2118 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Isachenkov]

[Text] Moscow July 28 TASS—Members of the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee on Glasnost who discussed a mechanism for the implementation of the law on the press and other mass media, expressed fears that it would be another inoperable legal act.

Incidentally, the bill comes into force on August 1.

The law on the press which the Soviet people were waiting for with impatience, contains guarantees for the freedom of the press and the rights of journalists, abolishes censorship and gives the right to institute a mass media organ not only to organisations but each Soviet citizen.

However, the discussions showed that euphoria concerning the new law was possibly premature.

"The situation with the law graphically shows all defects in the system of enacting laws," chairman of the parliamentary committee Vladimir Foteyev told TASS.

"We have faced a situation typical for the recent past when laws are inoperable because nobody drafts necessary comments on them."

Meeting participants noted that the law has many ambiguous rules. As a result, it cannot be fully enacted on August 1. The act also contains provisions permitting very broad interpretation.

Establishing the responsibiliky of the mass media for moral damage, the law does not define the degree of this responsbility. Since courts have no experience in this field, the range of fines to be levied by them will be great.

TASS General Director Leonid Kravchenko called attention to the fallacy of a provision on the registration of TV and radio programmes. In his opinion, TV and radio studies should be registered.

The meeting also discussed a situation which developed as a result of a decision by the Communications Ministry which introduces very high charges for the delivery of periodicals to subscribers. This will nearly double the price of some newspapers and magazines.

Substantiating the decision, Communications Deputy Minister Yevgeniy Manyakin stressed that the increase in postal charges was caused by a growth in transportation costs and was prompted by the deplorable situation now experienced by postal offices.

Some legislators described this decision which will inevitably reduce circulations of periodicals, as a "blow to glasnost". Others were not so pessimistic.

According to Foteyev, publications which represent the interests of some groups of leaders, will survive.

The parliamentary committee instructed the government to complete drafting all normative acts necessary for the law's enactment in the shortest possible time.

Press Center Director Views Goals, Influence

OW2807014990 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Jul 90

[From the "120 Minutes" program]

[Text] The permanent press center of the CPSU Central Committee has opened at the Oktyabrskaya Hotel in Moscow. Georgiy Pryakhin, a journalist who worked as a political observer on television, has been appointed to head it. He is currently deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee's Ideological Department. Here is our correspondent Vladimir Stepanyuk's interview with the head of the CPSU Central Committee Press Center.

[Begin recording] [Stepanyuk] Georgiy Vladimirovich, what made it necessary to establish the press center precisely at this time? How will it work, and how democratic will it be?

[Pryakhin] You know at one time it was popular to talk about directing public opinion, directing mass media, which turned into a system commanding mass means. Today this will not work. Even if we, meaning the Central Committee, wanted to, if we desired it very much, we could not order the newspapers around, including the party newspapers, because today they are not only the party's newspapers, they are the people's too. Even PRAVDA, primarily PRAVDA, we could not order around today.

Today the press is sufficiently autonomous, and I consider this a considerable achievement of democracy and democratization. Other methods of influencing the press, creative ways, should be sought. What is a correspondent after? What is the easiest way of getting his attention, of converting him to your beliefs? I believe that first of all this is information. The press center has been established in order to give you, and in particular Soviet television—which I consider to have great significance—information from the horse's mouth.

Today you were briefed by Comrade Dzasokhov, a member of the Politburo and secretary of the party's Central Committee. We have plans for other party Central Committee secretaries to appear here. I hope this hall will also be visited by the general secretary, the president. We will probably reach an agreement on a meeting with him. This will also be extremely interesting.

On opening our press center today I said that this is no ordinary hotel; it can hardly be called modest. Nevertheless today it hosted possibly the most highly placed and maybe the most awkward—being highly placed and being awkward in relationships is a fairly common combination—guest, a guest called glasnost. It has a Soviet name; I think that these meetings of ours will become a regular thing. We have plans for meetings once a week on Wednesdays at 1100. On these occasions this visitor will take its place here. Besides, I think that this center, this hotel will also be of additional benefit to the general public. It is notable that the party Central Committee is locating its most democratic institution in these premises. I think there is no more democratic institution than a press center, insofar as it provides a service not only for television and radio and newspapermen and correspondents; it primarily provides a service for the Soviet people—the readers and viewers—and foreigners too.

Activity here today was good; it embodied a healthy frankness. Let us hope this will become a tradition for the work of our press center. As far as I am concerned, I will try to see this implemented. The rest is up to you, comrades.

[Stepanyuk] Thank you. I wish you success in your new task.

[Pryakhin] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Press 'Slander' of Gorbachev Deplored

90UN2449A Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian No 29, 21 Jul 90 p 8

[Article by citizen of the USSR Mikhail Meleshenko: "Instead of a Suit in a People's Court—How Much Slander Is There Today?"]

[Text] The Moscow-Kryukovo electric train had hardly pulled away from the platform of Leningrad Station when many of the passengers scattered among the seats simultaneously buried themselves in the latest issue, just purchased, of the newspaper SVOBODNOYE SLOVO [FREE WORD] (a ruble per copy). Some resourceful young person sold about twenty copies in my car alone....

And what could the readers (who were, judging by everything, numerous and of all types) expect from a publication which, if one is to believe the printed attribution, is a press organ of the Moscow organization of the Democratic Union party? The tone, one must suppose, was set on the first page: Gorbachev was being embraced by a skeleton with the head of Lenin. Second page: V.I. Lenin was on bayonet-crutches and behind him were mountains of human skulls. Vladimir Ilich was on the fourth page again, this time in the form of a spider with the inscription "CPSU" on his back....

It occurred to me that it was because of that one word "svobodnoye" [free]... Free, apparently, from everything, and especially from any sort of ethical norms, from elementary norms of decency, and from responsibility, including criminal responsibility.

However the pictures were only the beginning. The words went still further. Here they are:

"Butcher and murderer... Red fascist... Head of the mafia... Criminal, killer..." At whom do you suppose, does SVOBODNOYE SLOVO aim these terrible accusations? At none other than the president of our country. These accusations, sounding like a legal sentencing, are further colored by the circumstance that they are contained in an article commenting on the Law... "On the Defense of the Honor and Dignity of the President of the USSR." The author of the article, "Heil Gorbachev!," is Valernya Novodvorskaya, one of the leaders of the Democratic Union party.

Of course there is no sense in entering into a polemic with a person who has thrown out her hand (even if in a malicious and satirical rage) in that odious greeting—any discussion on the "SS" theme raised by the author goes beyond the bounds not only of good sense but of the criminal code.

Besides, how can anyone speak of a dispute or of a need to refute the lie uttered by the newspaper when the very existence of the open publication of citizen Novodvorskaya (even if it is only in the informal press) refutes her own thesis of the president-dictator or the president-butcher. Would she and the editorial board (which has graciously indicated its telephone number and address in the publication information of the newspaper) have decided to publish such an article under, for instance, the Pinochet regime? Or even, better yet, the Salazar regime? Or—best of all—our own Brezhnev regime? I can imagine where the bellicose author would have ended up the second day after publication of, for example, a similar article under the title of "Heil Chernenko!"

So what kind of a "butcher," an "il duce," as the author calls Gorbachev, patiently bears such "democratic" outpourings of words (or more accurately, outpourings of filth)? What kind of a "dictator" or "killer," even after the openly anti-Gorbachev book of A. Zinovyev entitled "Gorbachevism," signs a law returning USSR citizenship to its author? What kind of a "monarchal personage" and "usurper," as Mikhail Sergeyevich is branded by the bearer of democratic principles and freedom of the soul, in answer to demagogic criticism and insulting attacks against the president and his circle from the mouth of one of the people's deputies, goes down to that same deputy in the audience and talks with him amiably and as an equal and asks (!) him not to renounce his parliamentary authority but to continue working (that is, to continue working against Gorbachev himself!).

God grant, as they say, the country such "dictators"... (And why do other delegates to the 28th congress not understand that by their own accusations against the president they draw near to the unbridled street press?)

Is it not strange that after the appearance of a legal document about the defense of the president they began to slander the president more often and with great refinement? And they abuse him from the left and from the right, forming close ranks opposing his course, his style, and his perestroyka.

Part of the creative intelligentsia (not the most talented part, thank God) has joined this offensive movement as well.

Walk along the Arbat on these July days. All the colors of our life today are on its whimsical palette. But there are brush strokes that mar the mood and smear the picture of healthy pluralism. "Plakaty" are rhymes that wander from one couplet to the next: "Gorbachev—Likhachev, KPSS—AES [CPSU—Nuclear Power Plant]," etc. It is not rare to hear simply rhymed obscenities and mischievously distorted famous names over the belly-laughs of the crowd....

As they begin their poetic speeches, the Arbat poets do not fail to complain about the militia which has gathered, saying that workers of the militia get offended and do not let them speak the whole truth; and they say that Mikhail Ulyanov is acting disgracefully—he drives them from the building on the Arbat where his theater is located....

I do not know anything about Ulyanov, but I have not noticed people in militia uniform on the Arbat. Perhaps the boys from the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] walk about in civilian clothing, and maybe they watch and listen and perhaps even record it—in expectation of other times and another authentic dictator. What do you think?

After all of this how can I believe in the reality of the assertions coming from the highest tribune that the life, honor, and dignity of each citizen of the USSR must be firmly defended and that we are headed for a rule-of-law state?

By insulting the president, the people whom I am discussing also insult the country which he leads. And, consequently, they insult each citizen of this country. And, consequently, they insult me too. And the editorial board of the newspaper that prints this slander on its pages has insulted me personally by asserting that my children and I live in a country headed by a "fascist, butcher, murderer," etc.

If it is possible, I request that these notes of mine be considered a statement of legal action in the appropriate people's court in Moscow.

PRAVDA Interviews Politburo's Luchinskiy

PM2707140190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jul 90 Second Edition pp 1-2

[Interview with P.K. Luchinskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee, by V. Naumov; place and date not given; published under the rubric "Our Interlocutor Is a CPSU Central Committee Politburo Member": "From Power of Force to Influence of Reason"]

[Text] Petr Kirillovich Luchinskiy is 50 years old and he has devoted 30 of these years to Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League] and party work. And not only in his native Moldavia. From 1968 through 1976 he was deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Department and then, for three years, second secretary of the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee. In 1989 he was elected first secretary of the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee, becoming in the same year a member of the CPSU Central Committee, and the July plenum elected him a member of the Central Committee Politburo. Petr Kirillovich is a graduate of Kishinev University and the CPSU Central Committee Correspondence Higher Party School and a candidate of philosophical sciences. The first question which we put to him concerned the Communist Party's place and role in the present stormy and contradictory situation in Moldova: How is it necessary to work and struggle under the new conditions, and have the means and methods changed?

[Luchinskiy] The situation in Moldova is really complex, and new forces have come into the political arena. Objectively, they are helping the Communist Party to rid itself of sluggishness and old stereotypes and to assimilate new approaches. Is it finding this difficult? I must tell you that at first, when people had a feeling of emancipation, when social life was set in motion, when very different ideas and opinions began to be heard and receive support, the first reaction of communists was to stand in their way and fight against them. As in many other regions. Just as you said: to struggle under new conditions.

Then they saw that the wave of confrontation was growing, forces were becoming polarized, bitterness was appearing, and the sides were increasingly straining themselves and putting more and more energy into finding support and, thus, drawing more people into this confrontation. Who benefits from such civil conflict?

And the time came when we began to comprehend. To look more closely at our opponents. Who was behind the new public movements, which groups of the population, and what were their aims? And what began to emerge? Above all, the fact that many of them were, in principle, expressing sensible views. And they were struggling against us chiefly because, out of habit, we had initially given them, let us put it like this, an unfriendly welcome. To some extent this also resulted from the deformations that existed in all politics, and particularly in the party's nationalities policy. Losing its head in the face of the people's growing self-awareness, at first the party was not only diffident but also afraid to express any national interests. It was as though the usual idea that it was international and that only common, all-Union ideas and aims were important to it hampered it all the time. To a certain extent all this deprived communists of an active role, and people began to move away from them because it was unreasonable, this is clear. But how did this happen? For, in theory, we did not deny the existence of national interests. It was another matter that, in practice, we rejected them and got away from them. And this, I believe, was a very profound mistake. For the political organization which calls itself the republic Communist Party expresses the interests of the people who live there. It was against the background of these deformations in nationalities policy that it so happened that we were bypassed in some respects by other political forces which made use of our shortcomings and former distortions.

If we are to seek the sources, then, of course, Stalinism is to blame here, and the very system that grew up on its foundations is to blame. This is incontestable. The party has announced a complete break with Stalinism and is dismantling that system. Why are there forces which appear not to see this? Some are simply carving themselves a career and making some political capital and have chosen as their means extremes and accusations of the party of all sins. In this connection they go over the top. Others see and know nothing but strong-arm and speculative methods. Yet others are just politically naive and inexperienced. And those who are struggling against us—where do they come from themselves? From this same system. And they come with the same stereotype: You have been in power, they say, so now give it up to us. And what do they use? They try to use some of the methods which we now totally reject as unsuitable. And we are now going through precisely a very complex time, while people come to realize that we are all psychologically still in the throes of a worthless system of relations which must be rejected as a whole.

What is to be done? I believe we must undertake a broad dialogue and pool efforts. The people are sensible and will understand and see the results. If some formation assumes political responsibility, well, let it declare this to the people and pass under their control. It is time we all abandoned political ambitions and channeled competition along a different road: Who will do more in the interests of the people in whose name everyone so likes to speak.

[Naumov] And yet the MPF [Moldovan People's Front] openly proclaims quite different political aims. Its steps, incidentally, very much resemble the advance of "Sajudis" in Lithuania, which in the end achieved its political aims to a certain extent....

[Luchinskiy] Yes, there is much in common, and I have said so. But the situation in one country or republic should not be viewed through the prism of a different reality. This is the first point. Second, you have to have a good idea of the beginning and end of a movement. Let us begin with the independence of states. Some people picture full independence as a synonym for isolation from everything, as the ability to resolve all their questions only by means of their own forces.

Once again they proceed from the unreasonable system which allowed no independence. And exhausted people are inclined to exaggerate their needs. A thirsty person is ready to drink a whole sea. And so the perfectly justified desire for independence is now assuming exaggerated forms in many people. I do not doubt that we will see this disease out. But how are we to shorten the road to recovery and get through the crisis? I believe that a certain gradualness is needed here, and the first steps are, I believe, to create and sign a new Union Treaty. And then realities will come to light which few people yet understand: where we are, at what stage. What comes today from a "naked" idea will be placed on a firm footing. And I believe that we in the republic will arrive more quickly at mutual understanding and businesslike cooperation when everyone sees that we need to realize our sovereignty and independence through the Union market, through ties with other republics and with the Union in which we have been integrated by life itself. Proceeding from our potential, we will emerge into the European and world markets. But when we have united on a new, totally voluntary basis, having consciously calculated our forces, potential, etc., then we will become closer and stronger.

[Naumov] At the same time, to judge from press materials, voices are being heard with increasing frequentcy in the republic calling for the unification of the Moldovan SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] with Romania.

[Luchinskiy] I believe that that position does not reflect the will of the majority of the people, does not serve their interests, and leads to the further exacerbation of interethnic strife in the republic. Sociological research and meetings and talks with rural working people, workers in a number of cities, and representatives of the creative intelligentsia give me grounds for saying that the talk inspired by certain persons of the possibility of Soviet

Moldova's unification with Romania is not supported by the people. The best evidence of this is provided by the results of a sociological poll conducted by scientists of the Moldovan SSR Academy of Sciences and the Moldovan Communist Party Central Committee Sociopolitical Research Institute in the cities of Kishinev and Belts and also in Khyncheshtskiy, Grigoriopolskiy, Synzhereyskiy, and Vulkeneshtskiy Rayons. Some 82.5 percent of those polled gave a clearly negative reply, 7.5 percent support the opinion of a merger between the Moldovan SSR and Romania, and approximately nine percent have not defined their position. I do not think there is any need to comment.

I am forced to state that the decisions of the recent Second MPF Congress have had an extremely adverse effect on the sociopolitical situation in the republic. Our Central Committee and newspaper editorial offices have received many letters and telegrams from people voicing indignation or acute anxiety at those decisions and at the categorical demands of the front's leaders, which are devoid of a sense of reality. The Moldovan Communist Party Central Committee recently adopted a statement in connection with the new MPF Program, in which we condemn attempts to sow seeds of intolerance, opposition, and enmity on our long-suffering soil, to slander the Communist Party's activity today, to alienate it from the people, and to propagate a new totalitarianism.

I repeat once again: My credo as a politician is consolidation and consensus. But on the only possible basis now—social progress, humane, democratic socialism, and interethnic concord.

[Naumov] How do you see the new relations among the republic Communist Parties? You said at the 28th CPSU Congress that the parties must be linked by ideological commonality and by unified tasks reflected in CPSU documents. But what about organizational commonality? Is it needed?

[Luchinskiy] It is not needed in the way in which it took shape earlier. Nonetheless, in all arguments let us proceed from common sense and the person. We communists have agreed that the person must be at the center of all politics. If we have unified thoughts and aims, will we not find reasonable organizational forms for unification? At the congress we adopted statutes according to which first secretaries joined the Politburo. This is already, I would say, a federalist approach, or at least a step toward this. We will be united by the cause, by a common interest, by an understanding of the tasks.

Giving more independence to the Union republic Communist Parties not only accords with the need to renew the party and democratize its life but also fits entirely within the context of broadening the republics' independence and strengthening their sovereignty. And it is natural that all will recognize the program and statutes, and on this basis people in the republics will already draw up documents which take account of their own special features—both national and historical.

[Naumov] Petr Kirillovich, how strong is the Moldovan Communist Party's position now, and is there not a danger that it will lose its leading position in society?

[Luchinskiy] Well, you know that such a danger hangs over everyone, and the very worst will happen if we do not work, if we lose our heads, and if we are unable to prove to people that we are the force which must be followed. We do not pursue petty or mercenary aims. I, for example, repeat all the time: We are not struggling for power, we are struggling for people's trust. When we have won their trust, they will begin both electing communists and trusting their recommendations, and they will be the vanguard force. But if we concentrate only on the struggle for power, we will lose everything. Today we must convince people by our deeds as to whom we are with and whose interests we champion. And the processes now under way in the republic show that, nonetheless, of all the movements and political organizations, our party is the most democratic at present. More than any other it enables people both to reason and to champion their own opinion, and the basis for this is decency and justice. And people are beginning to comprehend.

[Naumov] What is your attitude to the production-territorial principle for organizing the party's grassroots component?

[Luchinskiy] I do not believe that a rigid framework is needed here, and the new statutes provide for the necessary freedom in this sense. We must proceed from the actual situation. If a party organization in production does not prevent either the director or the labor collective from doing the main thing, what obstacles to its activity can there be here? If a conflict arises, they themselves will decide what to do. It cannot be ruled out that in some places it will be decided to place the party organization outside production. I adhere to the thesis expressed by M.S. Gorbachev: This is a matter of every person's freedom. Where people want to, they will unite, adapting to the possibilities. For example, they will hire a hall and pay if they gather in it. The chief thing is that the person's political rights and freedom not be infringed upon.

In our own Moldova we are now working out a territorial mechanism. This is far simpler in rural localities. But in the cities we see self-management centers as the basis. There are not yet so many of them, and it will still take some time for territorial party organizations to occupy an appreciable place in the party's activity. Dual registering of communists is evidently needed: both in production and at places of residence. But, in general, we must not absolutize either. Life will show what is more expedient. It is important that we do not lapse into bureaucratic administration and once again resolve this question by diktat from above.

[Naumov] Petr Kirillovich, you have become a Politburo member. What will you do, now that you are in the CPSU leadership, to ensure that the party ceases to be a foot-dragging party?

[Luchinskiy] I have raised this question repeatedly. Why does the party drag its feet? The chief reason, I believe, is the lack of a living link, a direct link between political decisions and the sentiments of the masses. For we do not conduct polls in the party, there are no referendums, and we do not constantly consult even with secretaries of primary organizations, secretaries of rayon party committees, or simply communists on the national level. Therefore it is necessary, above all, to arrange the most essential contacts with the party masses. The second point. It is necessary to give the primary party organization very serious assistance, since we proclaim its primacy in the life of the party. But for the time being we mainly declare: You have been given powers, so use them. They really do have such rights, and they must exert influence from below all structures, up to the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, you understand. But they do not know how. Therefore we must undertake a whole number of specific actions. We must close our offices and go to the people whose trust we want to win. Let them see that we are striving and know how to move perestroyka in people's interests.

[Naumov] A few words about specific actions under conditions of a multinational republic...

[Luchinskiy] Do you know on which principles communists should be united? They should be above quarrels on any grounds, and primarily interethnic grounds. There was an argument at the congress over whether to record in the statutes that a communist must set an example in something. I would like communists to set an example in the execution of laws. I personally, as a communist, might not entirely like some of them, let us assume. Or, let us say, parliament adopts some decisions that are not quite to my taste. But a communist cannot set an example in violating the law, right? There is a form of parliamentary work, and it is necessary to persuade each other there. Some of us still form a solid wall, spoiling for a fight, as it were, or seek to resolve a question through Moscow. And we still seldom and unwillingly make contact with each other at the level of people's diplomacy, so to speak. We continually stoke the atmosphere by means of declarations, etc. I believe that it is time to stop and change everything abruptly after the congress. Everyone must understand that there is one form, one method of communication and of settling disputes—to make panhuman values the basis of all one's judgments. To unite communists, who have today found themselves split along national lines. We are still faced with the chief thing: to turn politics from a battlefield into a laboratory. To begin with, it is necessary to totally abandon at least confrontational phraseology, to learn to conduct a dialogue, to get accustomed to investigating arguments, and to understand the concerns of one's interlocutor. To discuss, reason, and not get excited. To do common work. And there is plenty of work. I am sure that this is what will reconcile us.

Effects of New Curbs on Foreign Travel Examined

PM2607140790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 8

[F. Ivanov article under the "Fact and Comment" rubric: "Border Barriers Down"]

[Text] As government head N.I. Ryzhkov reported at the joint sitting of the Presidential Council and the Council of the Federation, a decision was made 19 July to temporarily suspend the operation of a USSR Council of Ministers resolution signed in September 1988.

It should be recalled that this resolution substantially eased the procedure for Soviet citizens wishing to travel to socialist countries. It provided the opportunity to travel there on a Soviet passport containing a special insert, and streamlined crossing points were opened on the western border.

The new government decision was so unexpected that, when the editorial office tried to clarify details Monday morning, none of the relevant officials responsible for its implementation was able to explain exactly what it does envisage. The sole clear point is that henceforth (and for an indefinite period) all the streamlined crossing points on the territory of the Ukraine and Belorussia are closed. Soviet citizens with passports containing inserts can no longer cross the border by car in those republics.

The growth of the uncontrolled export of consumer goods, including foodstuffs, is cited in seeking to justify this resolution. The head of government quoted here figures that the quantity of contraband items detained at customs is now valued in the millions of rubles. The report also speaks of the need to protect our already depleted market and of the discontent felt by the population of border oblasts, where virtually everything is in short supply at some time.

The position on the western border has indeed severely deteriorated of late. Recently IZVESTIYA (No. 194) wrote of thousands of people waiting in line for hours to undergo customs examination. The customs officials themselves are literally exhausted, checking every vehicle in search of contraband (and indeed discovering nonexportable goods in virtually every vehicle). The customs officials have been overwhelmed by the flood of people wanting to go abroad, and asked a long time ago for decisions to be made that would allow the situation to be relieved.

And the government has acceded... forbidding at a stroke Soviet citizens to travel to neighboring countries. Tens of thousands of people who had planned their vacations and were completing the formalities suddenly find themselves stymied. Numerous business contacts have been frozen, since people on business in socialist countries were also issued passorts with inserts. Not just international agreements but also the direct right of relatives on different sides of a border to have contacts have also been violated. Moreover, if the letter of the resolution is followed exactly, entry to Poland, Czechoslovakia, and

Hungary is blocked for virtually all categories of Soviet citizens. True, formally, such an opportunity does remain—one may request a foreign travel passport. But it emerges that the country's visa and registration departments have only one week's supply of such passports left. No one anywhere can print new forms, so this possibility exists on paper only.

But the main point is that all these measures will scarcely rectify the situation, since, according to customs data, three-fourths of all contraband seized by the customs is carried by citizens of neighboring countries. But the resolution does not apply to them. They can continue to cross the border wherever they wish, and one can hardly hope for any alleviation of the situation. Rather the reverse—the lack of competitors will merely increase the influx into the country of all kinds of foreign smart operators.

As we can see, it is difficult to say who would benefit from these emergency measures. On the other hand, the sufferers number tens of thousands. It is almost impossible at present to predict the way the disappointed people will react. Having confirmed yet again that you cannot put your trust in the immutability of decisions that have been made, the government is impairing both its relations with the republics and its own standing in the world just prior to the USSR Supreme Soviet's adoption of the Law on Entry and Exit.

Representatives of departments are now engaged in active consultation with the government in the hope of softening certain points in the resolution. It may be that exemptions will be made for those who travel abroad on business and who managed to obtain air or train tickets. But the situation on the whole remains unchanged: Thousands of people are besieging local visa and registration departments and standing around at border points in an attempt to obtain clarification as to what they should do now. However, thus far there have been no official comments on the decision forthcoming, which turns up the heat on the situation still further.

An IZVESTIYA special correspondent will be flying to the western border to get to the bottom of the situation and describe the situation prevailing at the border points and customs.

Changing Nature of Local Leaders Pondered

PM2707104390 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 1

[Anatoliy Druzenko "Political Diary": "New People in Power"]

[Text] The best evidence of new times is provided by new people...

A week ago I went to Lvov. I was carrying out an assignment which is now traditional for journalism in our country. Namely, when a leading official of a central editorial office travels from Moscow to some other region (a republic, kray, or oblast) to introduce the newspaper's new correspondent to the local bigwigs. The first visit is usually to the local first secretary (of the republic Central Committee, kray committee, or oblast committee), on whom the solution of all questions, including allocating an apartment and professional premises to the own correspondent, depends.

This time, in Lvov, we changed the tradition somewhat by paying the first (and only) visit to the chairman of the oblast soviet. The new correspondent needs an apartment and the soviet settles such matters. Although in time, I thought, such visits will become unnecessary if the editorial office is able to buy its own premises wherever it likes.

Meanwhile, the fact that we went straight to the oblast soviet chairman would have been totally unremarkable but for one thing: Namely, that the chairman who received us was Vyacheslav Chernovil, a founder of the Ukrainian Helsinki Union and well known human rights campaigner who has spent 15 years in prison camps and in exile, in short, a true ex-"dissident." The conversation was brief, businesslike, and productive, but that is not the point here. I want to talk about the emerging phenomenon in our life which may be termed: new people in power...

So then, new people... At the helm...

We grew tired of waiting for them. Very tired. It was hoped that, with the onset of perestroyka, new leaders would appear in the structures of party power. However, that hope soon evaporated. The "oldsters" did not go away. Getting rid of just a few took an agonizingly long time. Most often it was merely a case of shuffling the familiar nomenklatura "card deck."

True, there were changes in republic and oblast party committees but to paraphrase the well known saying, one could say of these changes: old contents in a new package... And even the rash of resignations of first secretaries at the beginning of this year did not lead to the long-awaited cadre revolution in the CPSU but turned into a "second secretaries' festival." It was not until the latest congress that a really new, perestroyka intake finally joined the party's leading organs, but, first, the proportion of new-wave politicians is, unfortunately, insignificant, and, second—and most important—we have missed the boat: That which the party was hopelessly late in doing and which the people urgently wanted and demanded has already begun to happen without it and, as it were, in other areas of perestroyka.

Really new people have joined the soviets—both their elected and executive organs. Not everywhere yet, not universally, in individual areas, but the fact that these are new and unusual people and that their world outlook is different from the principles by which their predecessors "at the helm" were guided is clear to all.

If I had to point out the main difference between the "old" and the "new" chiefs, I would place the trust factor first. Here is an example for you. The government greatly needs trust today, but when it tries to get it the opposite happens: Its credit is used up. Why? Probably the fundamental reason is a "material" one, it lies with the results of the government's activity. There is also a psychological factor, in my view. The people feel that the present government may also consist of good people and competent specialists but people who belong to the "old school" and are products of that same administrative system which has publicly bankrupted itself.

There is another attitude toward the representatives of the "new wave" of Soviet power (in the Baltic, Moscow, Leningrad, Lvov—the list could go on). Many of its representatives in the past years of stagnation were opponents of the "system," many of them were suppressed by it, lost jobs through it, were expelled from the party by it, and were sent to the camps by it. Hence they have a greater moral right than others to head the process of dismantling the old system, which had reached an impasse (and had taken us with it), and creating a new one. Their right is acknowledged by the majority. It is politically logical.

(I observed a similar situation once in Poland. As is well known, "dissidents in sweaters" are now coming to power in the East European countries too. Before becoming Czechoslovak foreign minister the present incumbent was a stoker, apparently. In Lvov Chernovil followed the same route: from stoker to oblast soviet chairman).

However, in addition to the confidence at the grassroots level in the new people (who are beginning to take up key posts not only in soviets but also in economic management spheres; next I think there is going to be an intensive leadership change at major industrial enterprises), these people now also need the ordinary support of the masses and respect for their decisions. After all, these people are not merely "new," they are still novices, too. Many lack experience of practical management or apparatus work in its usual sense. They may make hasty, extraordinary, even shocking decisions. Be that as it may, I am convinced that we must treat the decisions of the new people in power as the actions of a legitimate and real power.

So far the debate has centered on the grassroots attitude toward the new leaders. It is equally important how they are regarded "at the top." Attitudes there are mixed, to use a currently fashionable word. Some people take them seriously. Others treat them as a joke. And they are described by some, including in the press, as "adventurists" and "political intriguers" who are "urging the people toward the brink," and so forth. It is absolutely clear to me that such assessments are intolerable. But I would add that a very grave danger lurks within them. Because such verdicts do not weaken but rather intensify the tendency toward confrontation in society, which is thus on the verge of catastrophe. Not to mention the fact that the disrespect for those whom the people used to respect may easily rebound like a boomerang.

The new soviet chairmen and their deputies, new trade union or worker leaders, and new economic leaders now emerging from among the "nonparty" people, "democrats," "informals," and former "dissidents" may obviously please some and displease others. But they are the authorities. And that must be taken into account....

The prestige of the old—appointed—chiefs was most often based on fear. Today, for the first time in many decades, perhaps, we have an opportunity to get leaders who enjoy true prestige among the people. And therefore—this is the dialectic!—these new powers in power will find it a hundred times more difficult to justify our trust.

PRAVDA's Frolov Responds to Reader Criticism

PM2707133190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jul 90 Second Edition p 3

["From the Chief Editor's Correspondence" feature comprising a letter from Sumy Friends of PRAVDA Club and reply by Chief Editor I. Frolov—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text]

Letter to PRAVDA

The editorial office received this letter from the city of Sumy. It was addressed to the chief editor and raises a number of questions on which reflections are, we think, not merely of individual interest but of broader, public interest.

These questions also concern our other readers to some extent. So we decided to publish the letter from our Sumy comrades and the PRAVDA chief editor's reply to it.

Esteemed Ivan Timofeyevich!

In addition to the telegram that our Friends of PRAVDA Club sent you, we consider it necessary on behalf of both the club and the newspaper's readers to address you and set out a number of questions that PRAVDA readers (of course, those with whom we manage to meet and talk) are raising and asking.

At the organizational meeting held three months ago in the party obkom [oblast committee] Political Enlightenment Center, which resembled a readers' conference, the participants supported the editorial office's intention to publish the newspaper in eight pages, to regularly publish the "Discussion Pamphlet," the "Dialogue" page, and so on. We began to conduct a subscription campaign and established contacts with communications workers and, equally importantly, libraries. PRAVDA articles have begun to be more fully and more actively used in propagandists' seminars and in work with students in the University of Marxism-Leninism and with party and ideological cadres. Many proposals and wishes were expressed. Allow us to mention a few.

1. Wishes were expressed that PRAVDA journalists and workers meet with readers more regularly and more frequently. The members of the club invite you personally to come to Sumy Oblast and meet with readers.

2. We get the impression that you have quickly fallen for the praise of hasty toadies. PRAVDA has not yet acquired a truly Leninist character. PRAVDA has claimed to have become more democratic. Let us see in what way: In that it publishes in the original, in full, a position that is diametrically opposed to the CPSU's position and Lenin's testament and his ideas and teaching? If so, then such cases must be condemned.

Let us clarify the idea: Now, in conditions of a real multiparty system, and previously, of groups united by common ideas, aims, and approaches directed against the party, all too many publications conduct overt or, more often, thinly veiled but systematic antisocialist, antiparty, national-separatist propaganda. [sentence as published] PRAVDA should not simply make its pages available to them, but offer a critical analysis from Marxist-Leninist positions of their ideological principles and programs of practical action.

3. We informed you that we did not receive PRAVDA for two weeks. Finally, only the 16th June edition appeared (15 days late). Readers are indignant and puzzled when, on the eve of a CPSU Congress, the main party newspaper does not come out. This is a political blunder for which the culprits should bear responsibility.

4. The publication of dubious, unproven facts decreases PRAVDA's prestige and provokes offensively malicious criticism of the newspaper. The oblast's public, particularly participants in the partisan movement (which was a truly militant, active mass movement on the territory of Sumy Oblast), expresses bewilderment and indignation at the publication in PRAVDA 13 April of an article by P. Brayko about the circumstances of the death of S.V. Rudnev. Refutations of this have been sent to you.

What is it like for people who were close to Rudnev, the heroic commissar and heart of the formation of Sumy partisans, to read that he did not die in honest battle, sacrificing himself in a last deadly skirmish with the fascists in order to save his brothers-in-arms, the partisans of the formation, from complete annihilation, that he did not die in honest combat, but died at the hands of an NKVD agent.

We will not repeat what the actual participants in the Carpathian raid wrote. We are sending you three editions of the Putivlskiy Rayon newspaper LENINSKIY PUT along with indignant comments.

Incidentally, note the 12 May edition of LENINSKIY PUT, which is devoted to the celebrations of the 45th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War, in this small but very patriotic town. Compare the way the anniversary of our people's great and radiant victory was covered in central publications such as KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, OGONEK, and some others, and also in your newspaper. People read, compare, and speak up.

5. Give us advice on how the Friends of PRAVDA Club and PRAVDA's regular readers should act. Put a thorough article of your own in the newspaper. And if you consider it possible to publish our letter, we will be grateful.

6. One last point. We are worried about PRAVDA. We write to you from the heart. And just one wish motivates us—to see PRAVDA militant, Leninist, and a force fighting to unite communists on Leninist positions.

With deep respect and best wishes,

[Signed] Cochairmen of the Sumy Friends of PRAVDA Club:

O. Goncharov, editor of VPERED, a Sumy Rayon newspaper; V. Yedokimov, participant in the Great Patriotic War and senior lecturer at the Kharkov branch of the V.I. Lenin Polytechnical Institute; I. Makukhin, Great Patriotic War invalid, candidate of historical sciences, and rector of the party obkom University of Marxism-Leninism; and P. Shutko, leader of a team of electricians at the "Khimprom" Production Association.

Editor's Answer

Esteemed Comrades,

I read your letter with great attention and interest. I am sure that you wrote it from the heart and that what motivates you is indeed a desire to see PRAVDA militant and Leninist. This means seeing it up-to-date, active, serious, humane, serving the people, and truly involved in perestroyka.

Well, I am guided by the same wish as the one you mention and this is precisely the direction in which I have have been trying to point the editorial collective which I have headed since the end of last year. You are wrong in thinking that I or the editorial collective as a whole show any signs of self-satisfaction, still less complacency. Nothing of the sort. We gratefully receive all readers' observations and wishes, including yours.

You write that PRAVDA should not only make its pages available for the expression of all kinds of opinions on various acute social problems, but also that it should offer a critical assessment of these opinions if they deserve it and analyze them from a principled standpoint. I think that this wish is quite correct. We will continue to conduct debates in the newspaper (social and party life is simply unthinkable without them today), but at the same time we will try to pursue the ideological line of the editorial office itself more clearly. I agree with you that this is extremely important in the current situation.

I also share your alarm about the delays in PRAVDA because of the paper shortage. Unfortunately, this has happened in some places, including in your oblast. We ourselves raised this question sharply in the newspaper. There is a serious underlying reason for this connected on the whole with the extremely serious situation prevailing in the country with regard to paper production. You are right: This is not just an economic, but also a political question. The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, our PRAVDA Publishing House, and of course, the editorial office itself, are all now dealing with it. A number of measures are being adopted. But we may have to make more radical decisions in order to fundamentally improve the situation with regard to paper and the delivery of the newspaper. For example, we in the editorial office are already specifically considering a plan to create a production association (along the lines of a concern) which brings together not only journalistic forces, but also a separate papermaking base, a printing combine, and its own postal communications. Maybe this association will be created on a joint-stock basis. We would like PRAVDA to be more independent in the supply of paper and the delivery of newspapers to readers so that neither readers nor journalists suffer as a result of the whims of fate in any situation. In short, we understand the importance of this and we are thinking about a fundamental solution to the problem. In the meantime the extremely serious difficulties with paper and with deliveries must be overcome by prompt measures, so to speak.

The article by P. Brayko which you criticize so vehemently was prepared for publication by our military department. The author, as you yourselves understand, is an authoritative and worthy person, a Hero of the Soviet Union, he has a glorious military past, and is a famous writer and publicist. Of course, all this does not make him immune from mistakes. But as far as the information that you criticized is concerned, I cannot tell you anything final at the moment. The military department has informed me that investigations into a number of cases set out in the article are now under way. When the final conclusions are drawn, and the necessary assessment made, the newspaper will report this.

You make the observation that the theme of the 45th anniversary of victory was not sufficiently covered in certain central publications. Again I can only agree with you. Incidentally, PRAVDA also raised this question in the article "Payment for a Life" (17 June issue). PRAVDA itself printed a lot of material in connection with the victory anniversary, but it probably could have covered this sacred, noble subject even more extensively. But we did not "close" it on 9 May. We will continue to pursue the military-patriotic theme, using various genres and facts. By all accounts, your rayon newspaper LENINSKIY PUT, of which you have sent me a copy, does this well. I wish the journalists of Putivlskiy Rayon and all Sumy journalists new successes.

All PRAVDA journalists and I are sincerely glad that you have created a Friends of PRAVDA Club. You ask for advice on what the club should best do and propose that a thorough article about this be featured in the newspaper. But PRAVDA has already written a great deal about the way Friends of PRAVDA Clubs work. Just take a look at the "roundtable" headlined "Friends of PRAVDA Clubs" (12 June issue). We will continue to cover the work of these independent organizations which do a great deal to popularize our newspaper among the broad masses of readers.

You raise the point that PRAVDA journalists and workers should meet more regularly and more frequently with readers. Such meetings are already frequent. But we will bear your wish in mind. Thank you for inviting me personally to Sumy Oblast. Unfortunately, I cannot come at the moment, but I will try and come myself or send one of my deputies in the fall.

Once again I thank you for your frank letter. All the best to you and your comrades in the Friends of PRAVDA Club. May it work as actively, interestingly and fruitfully as possible. Believe me, the PRAVDA collective is wholeheartedly with you.

[Signed] PRAVDA Chief Editor I. Frolov

Power Station Collective Sends Gorbachev Letter

PM2707083690 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Jul 90 Second Edition p 3

[Letter from the Novovoronezh Nuclear Power Station collective: "To USSR President Comrade M.S. Gorbachev": "An Expert Report—the Truth"]

[Text] Esteemed Mikhail Sergeyevich!

Over the last three years collectives of power workers have appealed repeatedly to the government, expressing concern over its inactivity with regard to the formulation of a program to provide energy to support the country's economy. The vast majority of the items published in the press and the other mass media on the power industry, particularly the nuclear power industry, are negative and lacking in objectivity, while specialists' contributions are scarcely ever published.

The information vacuum on the state of the power industry, which is undergoing a real crisis, is filled with rumors and fabrications, and the publication of a few undisputed facts is accompanied by 20 or 30 pseudoscientific ones.

In the regions where the nuclear power stations are located, a sharply negative attitude is developing not only toward the nuclear power stations, but also toward the people working there.

We are not suicidal, our children and our nearest and dearest who live with us in the cities and settlements attached to nuclear power stations are no less dear to us than the victims of the accident at the Chernobyl AES [nuclear power station]. They give us an attitude of unconditional responsibility with regard to our work in running an AES.

As professional power workers, we know that without our labor the country's economy cannot stand on its feet. Without the power industry, without electricity, the country can expect cold homes without light or water, dark cities and villages, empty counters in the stores. The commissioning of new generating capacities at thermal, hydroelectric, and nuclear power stations has fallen sharply—the construction of power stations of any kind is virtually blocked. In everyday life people imagine that as long as there are sockets and lamps, there will always be electricity.

Semiglasnost is giving way to obscurantism, and the situation concerning the AES's, which supply 20-30 percent of the electricity in the country's European territory, is deteriorating every day. Our counterpropaganda potential is disastrously inadequate, and objective materials do not find their way onto the air or into the newspapers. The profession's prestige is falling, and an exodus of highly qualified cadres from the sector has begun. The influx of talented young people to the higher educational establishments has fallen sharply. The truth about the power industry is not reaching people. The country should know the truth. But does that mean first being plunged into darkness and cold?!

With concern for the country's power industry, the lifeblood of the economy, and knowing all its problems firsthand, we demand:

—an objective, open parliamentary examination and adoption of an energy program;

—the whole truth about the state of the power industry, its place in the economy and ecology, and the consequences of the energy crisis for the economy and for people's lives;

—open access to the mass media on equal terms with our opponents;

—the resolution of social questions affecting collectives of power workers and power construction workers, who could become the victims of the government's inactivity.

None of our fellow citizens wants to live in a cave heated by a camp fire, but that is where the authorities' inaction is leading the country.

On the instructions of the collective of many thousands, at the Novovoronezh AES:

[Signed] V. Zverev, director; V. Rozin, party committee secretary; Yu. Pavlov, chairman of the labor collective council; V. Gridnev, chairman of the trade union committee.

Nuclear Plant Safety Standards 'Unsatisfactory'

LD2607194490 Moscow TASS in English 1815 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—"There have been no accidents at Soviet nuclear power-generating facilities in the first six months of 1990. But two cases of the violation of safety standards at a nuclear power station and 75 unplanned shutdowns of power-generating units were recorded," said Vadim Malyshev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Supervision over the Safe Conduct of Work in Industry and Nuclear Power Engineering.

Speaking at a meeting of the committee board here today, he noted that the safety standard at facilities under control was unsatisfactory: The accident rate at non-nuclear facilities rose by 15 per cent in the last six months as against the same period last year. The number of job-related fatalities increased by the same percentage. These indicators rose even higher in separate republics.

In Malyshev's opinion, the increase in the number of accidents and work-related injuries partially reflect social tension in society. "But accidents in production are basically traced to the slackening of discipline, drop in personnel's occupational standard, irresponsible management, antiquated equipment, outdated technology, and reduction in the number of the departmental safety services," Malyshev said.

Comparison of Gorbachev Economic Session Report

PM2007202590

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 21 July 1990 carries in its Second Edition on page 1 a TASS report on the 20 July Gorbachev-chaired, joint Federation Council and Presidential Council meeting on economic reform. The PRAVDA item, entitled "Joint Session of USSR Federation Council and Presidential Council," has been compared with the translation of the Moscow TV Russian version published in the 23 July Soviet Union DAILY REPORT under the headline "Gorbachev Chairs Session on Economic Reform," pages 39-40, revealing the following variations:

Page 39, column two, last paragraph, first sentence of PRAVDA begins: [Text] A joint session of the Council of the Federation and the Presidential Council of the USSR was held in the Kremlin 20 July, chaired by, chaired by USSR President M.S. Gorbachev. The questions "On Organizational Measures for the Implementation of Economic Reform and the Transition to Market Relations" and "On the Preparation of the Union Treaty" were examined... (deleting introductory sentence and rewording)

Page 40, column one, first complete paragraph, first sentence of PRAVDA reads: ...starting in 1991. This program, as outlined earlier, will be submitted for examination at the next USSR Supreme Soviet session in

September this year. The program provides for ensuring freedom of economic activity and enterprise, elaborating a system of social protection for the population under conditions of market price formation, ensuring employment, denationalizing and decentralizing ownership, adopting antimonopoly measures, developing competition in the commodity market, and other measures. In order to urgently... (adding passage)

Page 40 column one, third complete paragraph, only sentence of PRAVDA reads: ...a market economy. It was pointed out, in particular, that the need for such a switch is penetrating the Soviet people's consciousness more and more deeply, and today it is chiefly a matter of averting the possibility of a deterioration in the position of low-income sectors of the population by elaborating a reliable system of social guarantees.

Comrade Nishanov, chairman... (adding passage)

Page 40, column one, last paragraph, first sentence of PRAVDA reads: ...discussing the issues on the agenda. (rewording and deleting final sentence).

Economics

Shevardnadze Receives IMF Managing Director

LD2807191590 Moscow TASS in English 1843 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow July 28 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Michel Camdessus here today.

Commenting on relations between the IMF and the Soviet Union, Shevardnadze said that the Soviet Union considered joining the fund way back in 1945.

Soviet experts then warned the Soviet leadership that failure to join the IMF threatened to isolate the country's economy from the rest of the world. The advice was left unheeded.

The IMF plays an increasing role in the macroeconomic development of its member countries, helping them to overcome backwardness and pay foreign debts, Shevardnadze said.

The fact that the Soviet Union is not a member of the fund undermines the universal character of this organization, he said.

The new climate in international relations has set the ground for talks on Soviet joining in the IMF, he said. [sentence as received]

"Our country regards its membership in the IMF as a logical continuation of its policy of wider involvement in the global economic cooperation," he said.

Camdessus responded positively to this proposal. The sides said they were interested in wider cooperation between the Soviet Union and the IMF.

Shevardnadze and Camdessus also discussed the results of the Houston summit of the G-7 industrialised nations and Western aid for the Soviet reform effort.

'Crisis Phenomena' Seen in Economic Development

PM2807212190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jul 90 Second Edition pp 1-2

[Report: "Economy: Half-Year Results. USSR State Committee for Statistics Reports: Restructuring and Social Reorientation of the Country's National Economy Continues; No Economic Improvement As Yet; Crisis Phenomena In Economic Development Intensify"]

[Text] The national economy developed in a contradictory way in the first six months of this year. Its restructuring and social reorientation continued, states a USSR State Committee for Statistics report on the USSR's socioeconomic development in the first half of 1990. Production of nonfood consumer goods increased. There was more extensive utilization of modern forms of economic management.

At the same time there was no economic improvement. Crisis phenomena in national economic development intensified. The slowing of social production growth rates in the second half of last year gave way to a drop in their scale and efficiency. The negative trends in the economy were brought about by a deterioration in economic management standards [upravlyayemost] at all levels; violations of economic ties; poor labor and production discipline; and enforced cutbacks in imports of important types of raw materials, other materials, and components. There were no positive changes in the investment sphere. The reduction in production volume led to a drop in profit in the material sphere and a reduction in budget revenue from that sphere. Preferential growth in salaries vis-a-vis output persists, which has in turn exacerbated the situation in the consumer market. Emissions of money have increased. Prices of consumer goods and services have continued to rise. The purchasing power of the ruble has fallen. The balance of trade remains in the red.

In the first half of the year compared with the corresponding period last year GNP fell by 1 percent, national income produced fell by 2 percent, and social labor productivity fell by 1.5 percent.

In the first half of the year 1,900 industrial enterprises (1.3 million people), more than 150 construction trusts, around 450 construction administrations, 23,400 stores and public catering enterprises, 178 consumer service associations and consumer-services centers, 1,410 studios and consumer-services workshops, and 397 public motor transport enterprises (more than 230,000 people) were working on the lease system. As of 1 July 1990 there were 29,500 peasant (private-sector) farms operating in the country. They have sown 121,000 hectares of agricultural crops for this year's harvest.

The number of people employed in cooperatives in the first half of 1990 compared with the same period last year increased by 70 percent; they produced output (work, services) worth around 30 billion rubles [R]. The number of people employed in individual labor activity (including second jobs) [povtornaya zanyatost] was 500,000.

The state budget deficit for 1990 has been set at R60 billion. The actual state budget deficit in the first five months of this year was R9.1 billion, made up of a Union budget deficit of R19.4 billion and a surplus of R10.3 billion in the Union republics' budgets. The state internal debt exceeded R460 billion as of 1 July.

In the first half of the year the national economy (excluding agricultural organizations, the Main Administration for State Insurance, and consumer cooperatives) earned R102.8 billion in profit, which is R4.2 billion (3.9 percent) less than last year's mark. Industrial enterprise profits were R63.0 billion, or R3.8 billion less than in the first half of 1989. Profits fell in all complexes apart from the social complex.

As of 1 June state budgetary income stood at R183.9 billion (80.9 percent of the plan for the first half-year).

State budget expenditure for the first five months was R193.0 billion (74.9 percent of the plan for the first half-year). The breakdown of this expenditure is as follows: 38 percent for the national economy, 2.0 percent for science, 33 percent for sociocultural measures, 16 percent for defense, 3.0 percent for the administration and upkeep of law-enforcement organs, and 5.0 percent for the financing of foreign economic activity.

Issues of money exceed the level for the first half of 1989 by 9.0 percent.

The population's monetary income was R300.4 billion and increased by 12.9 percent (against a planned 7.1 percent for the year) compared with January to June 1989. Average monthly earnings of workers and employees in the national economy reached R257 in the first half of 1990 as against R236 in the same period last year; the corresponding figures for kolkhoz [collective farm] members' wages were R187 and R166.

The pay of workers at libraries, clubs, museums, and exhibitions located in the northern economic region, the Far East, Siberia, the Kazakh SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], and certain other areas; state arbitration organs; the coal and slate industries; mine construction; and certain other industries was increased out of the state budget during this period as a result of the implementation of centralized measures. The population received payments and benefits out of social consumption funds worth R93 billion, which is R7.4 billion more than in the first half of last year.

Expenditure by the population on the acquisition of goods and payments for services (consumer spending) increased by 14.2 percent. The families of workers and employees increased their spending on the purchase of foodstuffs by 5.0 percent compared with the same period last year, while the figure was 7.0 percent for kolkhoz members' families. Spending on nonfood goods was up by 17 and 13 percent respectively.

Prices of goods and services rose, their consolidated index stood at 102.8 percent in the first half of the year. Prices of nonfood goods increased by 5.0 percent, the increases affecting virtually all kinds of goods.

State prices for most foodstuffs were unchanged. At the same time prices of potatoes, vegetables, and fruit increased markedly. The prices index for foodstuffs as a whole stood at 101 percent.

The population's investment with the USSR Savings Bank stood at R353.9 billion at 1 July which is R16 billion more than at the start of the year.

The country's labor resources at 1 July 1990 exceed 164 million people. Some 136.6 million people were employed in all spheres of activity. The number of able-bodied people of working age not employed in the national economy and not engaged in studies exceeds 8 million.

The national economy suffered losses of worktime running to 9 million man-days in January-February owing to strikes and mass absenteeism caused by interethnic and sociopolitical conflicts in a number of Union republics. In subsequent months this process was halted, and in the first half of the year as a whole losses amounted to 10 million man-days, which is equivalent to approximately 75,000 people on average being absent from work every day. Direct losses of output (unfulfilled work) due to this amounted to R900 million.

Despite the fact that output of consumer goods increased by 6.7 percent during the half-year, their percentage production was lower than had been envisaged in plan estimates.

Goods worth R182.6 billion, or R13.4 billion (7.9 percent) more than in the same period last year, were channeled into the trading system out of current production. Imports of goods increased by R5.6 billion (30 percent). The total volume of commodity resources channeled into the trading system ensured an increase of R29.4 billion in retail trade turnover, or 15.3 percent in actual prices.

Public transport carried 27.8 billion passengers in the first half of the year which is 0.6 percent more than in January-June last year. The state order for passenger traffic was 100.9 percent fulfilled by rail transport and 103.3 percent fulfilled by air transport. Passenger services are not improving. The number of transport accidents is increasing.

More than 670,000 apartments with a total area of 43.8 million square meters were built using all sources of financing. The amount of housing commissioned fell by 2.9 million square meters, or 6.0 percent, compared with the same period last year. The annual program for the construction of schools, preschool institutions, vocational and technical colleges, hospitals, medical centers, clubs, and cultural centers was less than one-fourth fulfilled.

Some 4.2 million people received incomplete secondary education while 2.5 million general education school students received secondary education. More than 2 million young men and women learned a trade at vocational and technical colleges. Higher and secondary specialized educational establishments trained 1.9 million specialists for the national economy.

Discharges of harmful substances into the atmosphere from fixed sources fell by 1.9 million tonnes, or almost 7.0 percent, compared with the same period last year. At the same time, despite the overall reduction, 10,200 enterprises increased their discharges of pollutants into the atmosphere to the tune of 1.4 million tonnes.

Around 1.3 million crimes were recorded in January to June, or 14.6 percent more than in the same period last year. However this year's growth rate is lower than in the same period last year (32.1 percent). Virtually all areas recorded a growth in crime.

Total industrial production fell by 0.7 percent compared with the first half of last year. The results of industry's work this year have been affected by the forecast drop in the volume of military production and the conversion of a number of defense industry enterprises and production facilities to civilian production. In the first half of the year production of nonfood consumer goods in defense sectors increased by 22.5 percent and production of technological equipment for light industry, processing sectors of the agro-industrial complex, and trading and public catering enterprises increased by 20 percent. However, this increase in the production of civilian output has not yet made up for the fall in military output.

Production of consumer goods (Group "B") increased by 5.2 percent compared with the same period last year, while production of means of production (Group "A") fell by 2.8 percent.

In the first half of the year consumers suffered output delivery shortfalls of R5.3 billion, which is almost double the figure for the same period last year. Contract commitments in January to June were 98.6 percent fulfilled; 18 percent [as published] of enterprises failed to fulfill their commitments.

In the first half of the year the agro-industrial complex produced foodstuffs worth R69.6 billion. Production increased by R1.2 billion against a planned figure of R11 billion for the year.

The level of meat production in the country as a whole during the first half of the year was lower than last year which was the main reason for the drop in the industrial processing of meat at processing industry enterprises and for the deterioration in the supply of meat products to the population. Fewer eggs were produced than in the first half of last year.

The six-monthly plan for deliveries of meat and meat products to all-Union stocks was 86 percent fulfilled, and the plan for deliveries of milk and dairy products was 97 percent fulfilled. Fewer vegetables were purchased than was the case last year

Agricultural enterprises completed the sowing of spring crops. In all, the area sown to agricultural crops for the 1990 harvest was 207.5 million hectares (209.3 million hectares in 1989).

Contract commitments for shipments to agriculture of grain-and corn-harvesting combines, grain cleaning machines, windrow harvesters, milking machines, potato lifting machines, and sprinklers were not fulfilled. Fewer mineral fertilizers and liming materials were delivered than was the case last year, 1.8 million and 2.8 million tonnes fewer respectively.

More than R27 billion in capital investment, which was 40 percent of the annual amount accepted by enterprises, was drawn down from all sources of financing to develop the agro-industrial complex, including sectors providing agriculture with means of production.

The program for the commissioning of state order projects in capital construction was undermined in the first half of 1990. R47.6 billion in fixed capital financed by state capital investment was commissioned, which is 3.0 percent less than in the same period last year. R78.6 billion in state capital investment was assimilated, which is 7.0 percent less than in the same period last year.

Construction still takes twice as long as the normative schedule, and the volume of incomplete construction work grew.

In the country's foreign economic activity there was a growth in import purchases accompanied by a considerable reduction in income from sales of goods. As a result the country's foreign trade deficit in the first half of the year increased by 150 percent compared with the same period last year.

In order to stabilize the situation in the consumer market, imports of consumer goods were increased—these goods accounted for 35 percent of total imports. Shipments of output in the form of commodity exchanges (barter deals with no money involved) carried out by enterprises and state and cooperative organizations with enterprises, organizations, and firms in foreign countries are increasing.

Six-Month Statistics Show 'No Improvement'

LD2807135690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The USSR State Statistics Committee has reported the results of the socioeconomic development of the country in the first half of this year. The national economy developed in a contradictory manner. Its structural reformation and its social reorientation continued. The output of nonproduction consumer goods increased. There was an increase in the use of modern forms of economic management. However, no improvement in the economy has taken place.

Crisis phenomena in the development of the national economy intensified. The negative tendencies in the economy have been brought about by the deterioration in the degree of control over the economy at all levels, the violation of economic links, low labor and production discipline, the forced reduction of imports of important types of raw, and other materials and components. There are no positive changes in the investment sphere. The reduction in volumes of production led to a drop in profits in the material sphere and reduced its contributions to the budget. Payments for labor continue to increase faster than output which in its turn has exacerbated the position on the consumer market.

There has been an increase in the amount of money issued. Prices of consumer goods and services continued to rise. The buying power of the ruble has fallen. In order to stabilize the position on the consumer market imports of consumer goods were increased. These goods made up 35 percent of the total volume of imports.

Data for 1990 Reported

LD2807170190 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow July 28 TASS—The Soviet Union's economy, dogged by increasing structural problems, worsening discipline, and falling imports [as received], continues to deteriorate, according to the Soviet Committee on Statistics.

The country's gross national product (GNP) dropped one per cent in the first six months of 1990 compared to last year's figures.

The gross national product dropped by two per cent and productivity fell by 1.5 per cent, the committee announced today. [sentence as received]

Internal state debt reached 460 billion rubles on July 1, it said.

The consumer goods production rose by 6.7 per cent but fell short of the plan. State prices on most foods were stable this year, according to the statistics committee, but 1990 saw a sharp rise in prices on potatoes, vegetables, and fruit.

Soviet imports grew while earnings from exports fell dramatically, increasing Soviet foreign trade deficit by more than 2.5 times compared to last year's figures.

Soviet exports to member-countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance dropped by 10.2 per cent. Soviet debt to capitalist countries grew, it said.

As of July 1, 1990, more than 15,000 Soviet ventures engaged in foreign economic activities.

The committee said there were 1,830 Soviet Union ventures registered in the Soviet Union.

Crime was on the rise across the Soviet Union with 1.3 million crimes registered in the first six months, a 14.6 per cent increase on last year's figures, it said.

Gorbachev Meets With Economists 27 Jul

LD2807180190 Moscow TASS in English 1741 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow July 28 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev had a four-hour meeting with journalists, scientists, and publicists specialising in the economy in the Kremlin on Friday to discuss Soviet economic reforms, today's IZVESTIYA newspaper reports.

Gorbachev called for a common intellectual effort to ease the transition to a market economy.

"I do not urge you to keep silent, however we should prevent a split in the increasingly powerful left centre. The greatest danger to perestroika lies in a fight between democrats," Gorbachev said.

Asked about relations between the center and the Russian Federation, Gorbachev said they have agreed on a coordinated reform program.

The central government is prepared to carry out radical economic reforms and needs constructive support, Gorbachev said.

Commenting on possible unemployment during the transition to a market, participants in the meeting said authorities should concentrate on training programs and new jobs.

The consumer market is in a shambles and poses a social threat, speakers agreed.

The Soviet Union can count on foreign aid, including financial help, Gorbachev said.

"There is also another point of view—the more difficulties we will face without aid, the more radical our reforms will be. However, I must say that a lack of roof for maneuver can force us to interfere more in economic activities. I am convinced that the world needs our perestroika no less than we do," he said.

Participants agreed that free enterprise and the lifting of artificial limitations on the foreign economic activities were the key to success.

Former Gas Industry Minister on New Role, Tasks

LD2807202990 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Jul 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A reduction in ministries and the organization of concerns as well as limited companies—these trends are becoming clearer and clearer in our economy. How is people's work changing as these innovations are introduced? This is a question worrying millions of people. We call the following item a dialogue with a former minister.

[Begin video recording] [Correspondent S.Slipchenko] I was in this building when it was called the Ministry of the Gas Industry. Now it has this sign. [video shows sign: Gas Industry [gazprom] State Gas Concern] The walls and offices and even the telephones on the desk of the ex-minister are the same, so what has changed in the people, in the industry, and for the whole country?

[V.S. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the board of the gazprom concern] Everyone was dismissed from the Gas Industry and (?were reemployed) in the gas concern. Some of them couldn't face up to it and said that they couldn't work in a new way. Some said they could not face it and left. I used to be a minister, and all my orders were law for everyone. Today we have a democratic form of administration. Everyone was worried. Just imagine: Earlier we were under the protection of the state when everything was preplanned, when everything could be relied on, starting from pay—that was one way. But now everything depends on us.

[Slipchenko] The whole country is worried. For we have more than 50 Union and Union republican ministries, and a large cut is approaching.

[Chernomyrdin] The experience of the whole world indicates this. We aren't discovering anything new. Perhaps the forms are different. Before it was easier, I must say. I received a decision from the Presidium, the Council of Ministers, decrees or orders. And now, today, nobody gives me any orders. I know (?that this needs to be done.) They have started—according to the law, according to our charter—to trust us more, and I must tell you life has become harder for us. We have more responsibility, and today if we make a mistake it is only our mistake, and this trust is simply [word indistinct]

[Slipchenko] And as a result of all tnese changes a paradoxical situation has arisen: Before, they were always urging fulfillment of the plan, and more the better. But now?

[Chernomyrdin] In the first quarter alone, because of this flexible system, we have saved more than four billion [figure only as heard] of gas. Four billion. This is more than a republic uses in a year. And the main task facing us is to supply the national economy of the Soviet Union. Supply it. And how are we to work? It all depends on us. [end recording]

[Slipchenko] Viktor Stepanovich showed us a map of the country split up by colors, not into republics but into deposits. He spoke of the indivisibility of the industry and of the fact that many people do not understand this. But this is a different subject, one for our next conversation with the chairman of the concern.

First Joint Stock 'Sotsbank' Established

LD2907214990 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The first joint stock bank in the USSR is being formed on the basis of the USSR Zhilsotsbank for Housing and Social Services. The old bank gained a poor reputation by providing loans to already heavily subsidized state enterprises. The new bank, called Sotsbank, is internationally oriented and will have its shareholders in other countries as well as the USSR, but a few problems still have to be solved before the bank starts providing its services.

According to bank chairman Viktor Bukato, Sotsbank has inherited a staff without proper experience in conducting exploratory commercial work. He says the major part of the 42,000 employees now working for the bank will not be able to cope with their new jobs, at least without additional training.

The bank also faces some constraints. Some papers report that Sotsbank's charter is expected to include certain limitations on foreign investments.

For the moment, however, the bank's greatest problem is its fixed liabilities at the incredible interest rate of one and ½ percent. By next year, but not earlier, the interest rate is expected to increase to 11 percent.

Agricultural

Grain Harvest Reports From Russian Regions

PM2707161790

[Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 July 1990 Second Edition carries on page 1 under the headline "Hot Grain" a roundup of correspondents' reports on the progress of the harvest. An unattributed introduction states: "The harvest continues in Russia's grain fields. It started later this year than last year—so far only around 8 million hectares have been reaped. Yields are around 37 quintals per hectare for the republic as a whole, but the harvest has not yet started in the Non-Chernozem Zone.

"Threshing work is already over in the North Caucasus. The winter crops there have ripened magnificently: Grain farmers have obtained 41 quintals per hectare on average, and even more in Krasnodar Kray—53.5 quintals. This is seven or eight quintals per hectare higher than last year. Technological innovations and organizational changes in agriculture—the contract and lease systems—have had an effect. But the crop farmers have also been considerably helped by the weather: The winter crops had quite a good winter and now, during the harvest, the weather in the North Caucasus has been favorable on the whole.

"The situation in Lipetsk, Kursk, and Tambov Oblasts as well as a number of oblasts in the Volga region is rather different. There, too, people have produced a good harvest, but it has been hard to gather in because of rain. Things are much better in Voronezh and Belgorod. People there started harvesting relatively recently, and grain crops have so far been harvested on 25 and 18 percent of sown areas respectively.

"The harvest is also going well in Volgograd and Saratov Oblasts, and very well in Kalmykia. This autonomous republic has already produced the equivalent of almost two state orders—179 percent! People in Orenburg, Ulyanovsk, Penza, and Samara are also embarking on the harvest, the grain in Tataria is not ready yet. The harvest is moving north."

A report from A. Pyatunin in Voronezh Oblast reads:

"The harvest has begun in Voronezh Oblast: Peas, barley, rye, and winter wheat have ripened almost simultaneously in southern rayons. The harvest is good this year—more than 25 quintals per hectare."

A report from G. Lobanov in Krasnodar Kray reads:

"The winter wheat harvest in the Kuban has been magnificent: Initial threshing work has produced 50 and sometimes 70 quintals per hectare. That is something to celebrate! But from the very first days of the grain procurement work there were also grounds for disappointment. Very little strong wheat—which has long been the pride of the Kuban's crop farmers—has been arriving at silos and grain reception centers."

A report from by V. Chechulin in Stavropol Kray reads:

"The farms of Stavropol Kray have fulfilled the state order for grain sales. More than 1.8 million tonnes of high-quality grain—mainly strong and valuable wheat—have been delivered to food stocks.

"Threshing work is being completed and yields are around 35.5 quintals per hectare."

Astrakhan Region Short of Vegetable Pickers

PM3007101590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Report by Ye. Orlov and V. Ilinets from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Reporter] [video shows harvesting work in progress] Almost 40,000 young people from all corners of the country come to Astrakhan Oblast every year for the harvest. I cannot call this a normal phenomenon. But that's the reality. Each Astrakhan vegetable farmer currently has to work some 15 or so hectares of planted land. They are simply unable to cope with this on their own. That's why they need help. This year barely half as many harvest workers as are needed have arrived in Astrakhan's fields. On one-third of the sown area there is nobody at all. But the tomatoes cannot wait. Local specialists have calculated that approximately 200,000 tonnes of top-grade tomatoes could be left in the fields. But it seems that this doesn't bother many people. Thus, this year certain Moscow depots have refused to accept Astrakhan produce. What are they hoping for? Deliveries from abroad? What do people in other regions—the North, the Urals, and Siberia—think?

[V.Ye. Turchenkov, deputy chairman of the oblast soviet executive committee] We have repeatedly appealed to all these territories. We recently sent out telegrams saying: Comrades, we have a good harvest. Please come and help us to harvest it so as to overcome the acute food shortage and feed our people with fresh vegetables, processed vegetables—any kind of vegetables. But unfortunately we received no reply to these telegrams.

[Reporter] If things continue like this the Astrakhan people will only have one way out—to sharply cut back on the areas sown to vegetables and cucurbits. But who will benefit from that?

Kostroma Rural Workers Form Strike Committees

PM2707113690 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jul 90 Second Edition pp 1, 4

[O. Stepanenko report under the rubric "Harvest Time": "A Peasants' Revolt?"]

[Excerpts] Among the alarming news items that chill the heart, here is one that has just arrived. Strike committees of agrarian workers have been set up in Kostroma Oblast. The editorial office is already receiving calls: Are the peasants really about to go on strike? What about the harvest, what about food supplies to the cities which are already inadequate? So we ourselves called the "scene of the crime."

Yes, agrarian strike committees have been set up in Kostroma Oblast and an oblast strike committee has been formed. L. Shamkov, chairman of the "Ilich" Kolkhoz in Sudislavskiy Rayon, was elected its leader. I asked Leonid Yakovlevich whether this step is justified.

"How much longer must we go on suffering, can you tell me that? We have had enough...." [passage omitted]

"I do not think you realize in Moscow what the situation in the countryside and agriculture in general is," L. Shamkov says bitterly. "Feed procurement is now in progress, for instance. There is a shortage of equipment. There are all kinds of machines, but the spare parts situation is disastrous. Yaroslavl is not delivering anything. On the slightest pretext they ask for scarce equipment or food in exchange. It is highway robbery. In general, the supply system has collapsed, it is left to take care of itself. The countryside has finally been brought to its knees and left to face the harvest on its own. That was said in the strike committee's appeal to the inhabitants of cities and workers' settlements and to all the oblast's working people."

What does the strike committee want? A "package of demands" has been sent to the oblast soviet executive committee. They include urgent demands relating to the harvest. First, the restoration of at least the former patronage links between the city and the countryside.

Among the demands for the next few years are these: allocation of resources for increasing soil fertility from the state budget and supplying the countryside with gas, or where that is impossible providing electrical heating; improvement of the existing housing and its amenities; the total writing off of long-term loans; price parity; and the supply of raw materials and semifinished materials to the countryside on the basis of the norms stipulated for industry.

The main items in the "package" coincide with those for which the country's recently formed Peasants' Union is struggling.

[PRAVDA] "And what if the demands are not adopted? After all, much must be tackled at the level of the government of the republic, or even the Union."

[Shamkov] "We are taking everything into account. We reserve the right to adopt countermeasures, up to and including organized, collective actions."

[PRAVDA] "What do you have in mind? Stopping feed procurement, harvesting, and milk and meat production?"

[Shamkov] "People in our villages have been asking themselves these questions for a long time now. Maria Aleksandrovna Persiyantseva, a former kolkhoz chairman, said: 'It is immoral to strike when produce will be spoiled.' It is indeed immoral. So we will not strike in the fields or at the livestock units. But we are the owners of the products we produce. That is a powerful lever, and in extreme we will use it."

So there is no threat of a peasant strike. But the Kostroma step provides food for thought. After all, this is not the first ultimatum from agrarian workers. The other day an equally alarming report came in from Perm. And now another from Karaganda Oblast. This time it was not the strike committee as in Kostroma, or the agrarian leadership as in Perm—the warning was issued to the oblast center by a session of the Michurinskiy Rayon Soviet of People's Deputies, and in the toughest terms. Unless the city dwellers help in the vegetable fields, they will not receive a gram of produce from them. [passage omitted]

Railway Official Interviewed on Harvest Transport

LD2907145990

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 29 July carries a 5-minute report on an interview with an unidentified correspondent and Deputy Railway Minister Anatoliy Yakovlevich Sidenko.

Sidenko is asked to discuss the part being played by railway transport in this year's harvest. Sidenko complains the railways are being given new tasks each day. "We have to carry about 40,000 vehicles for the harvest on behalf of the Ministry of Defense alone." A total of 28,000 have already been transported but requests for more are still coming in from the Trans-Baykal region, Central Asia, and Alma-Ata in particular. Despite the very serious shortage of gasoline and diesel and the tight control on supplies going to the pblasts from refineries, the harvest must be brought in. Trucks, combines, tires, and batteries have to delivered from the factories to their destinations.

Sidenko claims the efforts of the railwaymen are succeeding. The conveyance of 260,000 tonnes of early cabbage from Central Asia has been accomplished with hardly a single complaint. About 150,000 tonnes of early cabbage has been shifted from Azerbaijan. All told, about 16,000,000 tonnes of vegetables will have to be moved by the railways.

Noting that a good harvest of bread-grain has been grown in the North Caucasus—including Rostov Oblast, Stavropol Kray, and Krasnodar Kray—Sidenko asserts the railways have already moved about 800,000 tonnes of grain more than they were asked to in the plans which were submitted by customers for July. By the end of the month the figure will probably have risen to more than 1 million tonnes. The plan for Rostov Oblast, Stavropol Kray, and Krasnodar Kray is substantially overfulfilled.

The correspondent suggests the sheer size of the harvest is to blame for problems that are arising. It is more than plans allowed for. Sidenko agrees, saying that the large harvest has created many additional problems. By way of illustration he says the Volga railway was asked to move five wagonloads of grain products a day. Now it is being asked to shift 50. Sidenko appeals to customers to give the railways fair warning of their new requirements. At the moment this is not being done and, as a result, the railways are "groping in the dark." He adds that grain trucks are now being shifted from the Irkutsk Region to the North Caucasus and Volga railway divisions, and the railways are coping.

"We figure that during July we will carry seven million tonnes of grain from the new harvest even though we were originally told 5.7 million tonnes. What does 1.5 million tonnes of above-plan grain mean in terms of railway trucks? It means 25,000 trucks. We should have been given enough time to get them into position. But, unfortunately, we are still not getting amended plans," said Sidenko.

Sidenko says the grain which has been grown in Stavropol Kray could be stored at elevators. There is no point moving it on straightaway because it will only get held up later on, at mills and other elevators. "In Kuybyshev, Orenburg, and Penza Oblasts and Bashkiria, the transport of the harvest has not really started. Even so the number of grain trucks which have not been unloaded is already increasing by over 3,000 a day simply because it is not possible to unload them quickly," he continues. The railways have been asked to shift six million tonnes of grain products during August. "Even the railwaymen, who are not actually growing the grain, know this target is already manifestly unrealistic." Sidenko reckons the true figure will be about two million tonnes greater. It will take about 40,000 trucks, not requested in plans, to move the extra grain. It is these underestimations which cause delays in supplying trucks and hold up grain shipments, he says.

Scientific

Further Coverage of Attempts To Repair 'Soyuz'

Progress of Work Reported

PM2907141590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Report by Sergey Slipchenko from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Allow me to remind you, comrades, that cosmonauts Anatoliy Solovyev and Aleksandr Balandin have been working in space for the past two hours, since 1515 hours. This work is continuing and our special correspondent at the flight control center will tell you about it. We switch over.

[Slipchenko] You see scenes from the flight control center where communications with the Mir space station have been virtually continuous today. The point is that the cosmonauts are now far beyond the range of the television cameras. They have descended to the spot where the module is docked with the Mir orbital complex. They are now removing the handholds—this, as we reported in yesterday's "Vremya" newscast, is a priority task—they are either removing these handholds or fastening them down firmly so that they are not in the way during the undocking of the spaceship or during the docking of the next expedition.

Well, as the saying goes, better to see once for yourself than be told a hundred times. At the very beginning of the space walk, two hours ago, the cosmonauts took a television camera to show the hatch which refuses to close. When the cosmonauts climbed out to show the hatch they discovered the faulty feature. I do not want to go into technical details. Experts are now working on it. But it is true that one of the structural features of the hatch has been damaged. It is either a design fault, or it has occurred through mishandling. Time will tell. But the main thing is that the problem has been identified. When the cosmonauts return—you can see a diagram of their long journey on your screens [video shows diagram of space station], they are working down below where the small figure is on the diagram—when they return they will try once again to close the hatch.

The specialists at the flight control center who are in charge of this operation have just gathered us here and told us that even if the hatch remains open this will not affect the further course of the space expedition. All the foreign press reports are unfounded. The space program continues and it will continue for many years to come as planned. That is, all the international crews will work on board the Mir station. I hand back to the studio to Igor Fesunenko, but we will keep you briefed on the progress of work in space.

Report on Hatch Problem

PM3007100790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Report by Sergey Slipchenko from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] New work was conducted in outer space today starting at 0315 Moscow time. How did it end? We should be getting a report on this from our correspondent at the mission control center. I will now ask my producer whether the mission control center is on the line. Give us the mission control center please.

[Slipchenko] You are looking at the mission control center. We had been saying that at this time there would be a report from the cosmonauts aboard the "Mir" station. But the hall is empty; everyone's left. The cosmonauts spent 3 hours 31 minutes in outer space. Well here are the results of today's work. The ladders which the cosmonauts left beside the hatch during their previous work have been removed and secured in places where they will not impede docking; that was the first task of the walk. The second task was the hatch which had caused so much concern; it has been closed. The situation was analyzed back on the ground and it was established that it would be possible, with great difficulty, to close the hatch. And indeed the cosmonauts made a very great effort and closed the hatch. [video shows giant-screen shots of interior of spacecraft] Now you can see a recording here on one of the mission control center's TV screens. When the cosmonauts first inspected the hatch this is what they saw. Unfortunately the camera is shaking about and we can't see the hatch, but it showed specialists all the details of this component. I want to show it to you now. [shows photograph] This photograph has been taken off the video, and this reddish spot on the picture is the very place where pressure was applied—the catch [uklyuchina] on the Mir station. So if you look closely, this is the Mir station and this is the hatch. And it was this [word indistinct] that stopped the hatch closing. The cosmonauts made an effort to push on this catch and the hatch closed. The cosmonauts are now working under normal conditions. The airtightness of the compartment will be verified within 24 hours. Only then will the decision be made to open the compartment for normal activity or not. Now I'd just like to say a few words about what has been written in the Western press—the space program has been called into question. I won't give my opinions, I will just report the facts. Today we were told here that 506 of the 520 experiments planned for this mission have been carried out. Some 21 million square kilometers of the Earth's surface has been photographed at very high resolution—five to seven meters. These are unique and invaluable photographs for determining the ecological situation not only in our country but in many other countries too. Foreign news agencies and specialists are interested in these photographs. Twenty-three capsules with unique crystals will be sent back to Earth by the mission. Well, I can say that protein crystals are being grown, and Western specialists—Americans in particular—estimate that one such crystal is worth $1 million. Many such crystals will be grown on board. The next mission will send back 90 kg of cargo. A special Progress spaceship with a descent capsule will be launched for the next mission. Those are the results of this mission. That closes our report and I hand you back to Igor Fesunenko. The space program is continuing in conditions that are safe for the cosmonauts.

Details Given of 22 July Smolensk AES Fire

PM2707181190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jul 90 First Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent N. Popinako under the "Reporting Details" rubric: "Smell of Smoke...."—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Smolensk Oblast—As the Main Administration for Atomic Power Stations has already reported, a fire in the cable leading to the start-up reserve boiler broke out at the Smolensk AES [nuclear electric power station] 22 July. The fire was put out by the firefighting services and the station personnel. Unit No. 2 was automatically shut down and the reactor dampened down. Our correspondent met Ye. Safrygin, director of the Smolensk AES, and asked him to give more details about the accident.

"Power Units No. 2 and 3 were operational at the Smolensk AES 22 July," Yevgeniy Mikhaylovich said. "Unit No. 1 was undergoing a major overhaul. At 2250 hours the staff noticed burning cables on the gantry linking the main building with the start-up reserve boiler. The fire services and station personnel started putting the fire out. At the same time, current was cut to the main circulation pumps in Unit No. 2. The reactor was automatically dampened down and placed in a cooling condition. It is not yet clear whether there is any connection between the fire in the cable leading to the start-up reserve boiler and the shutting down of the circulation pumps. This will have to be clarified by an interdepartmental commission."

[Popinako] It is well known that the Smolensk reactor is the same type as that at Chernobyl. Were measures taken after the 1986 tragedy to improve the safety of the power units?

[Safrygin] Really major measures were taken. A huge amount of priority technical and organizational measures were carried out. And this work is continuing. But we are worried about the performance standards of Soviet electronic and other equipment and instruments. Take this cable. At nuclear power stations abroad, for instance, cables are isolated with fire-resistant materials. But ours still use lubricated paper. They overheated slightly and there was a smell of burning.

[Popinako] How have people in Desnogorsk reacted to the incident?

[Safrygin] Quite calmly. After all, the residents are mainly our workers, and many of them are competent specialists in the nuclear power field. They are explaining to people that in this situation there is no reason for any panic. It is a different story in neighboring Roslavl, Smolensk, and nearby villages. Various rumors initially sprang up there, but we have now dispelled them. I would note that the accident did not lead to any change in the radiation situation. Radiation at the station and in the district is currently lower than permissible levels.

[Popinako] How long will unit No. 2 be out of action?

[Safrygin] That will depend on the commission's findings. It will not take much time to restart it. We are planning to complete the repair and restoration work within three days.

Power Crisis Forewarned Without More AES's

PM2707143590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Report by Lev Maksimov from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] We reported in May that a referendum was held in Voronezh on suspending the construction of a nuclear heat supply station there, the second nuclear power station on the republic's [as heard] territory. It must be admitted that, after Chernobyl, people's attitude to the utilization of the atom for peaceful purposes has become extremely negative. At the same time our correspondent in Voronezh, Lev Maksimov, is reporting from right next to the uncovered reactor. We hope that this is not mindless bravado.

[Maksimov] Fuel recharging operations on the No. 5 unit of the Novovoronezh nuclear power station [AES] have started today. The top has been taken off the nuclear reactor, the pumps.... And here I am standing right above it. Below is water. The changing of the rods is done under water.

[Unidentified speaker] The 10-meter layer of water reliably protects people from radiation. And the entire nuclear fuel recharging operation is conducted from the panel here by remote control. [video shows staff at control panel] Manipulators operating under water change the nuclear fuel rods strictly in accordance with a preset program. All this is monitored by precision instruments and also visually with the help of underwater television.

[Maksimov] Standing next to me is Vladimir Aleksandrovich Zverev, the station's director. Vladimir Aleksandrovich, is there any danger here?

[Zverev] No, as you can see there are people working here, and their daily dosage rate will be only half the permitted limit.

[Maksimov] Three days ago you wrote to the president and the leaders of the Soviet and the republic governments.

[Zverev] We, that is our collective and I, as power industry specialists, are concerned at the fact that no power industry installations are currently being built in the country, no power generation facilities. This will lead to a crisis in the power generation industry.

[Maksimov] You are convinced that the nuclear power industry is ecologically the cleanest industry?

[Zverev] Not just I but our entire staff is convinced, and I hope that all people in the world with any common sense are convinced that the nuclear power industry is ecologically the cleanest industry.

'Cosmos-2088' Satellite Launched 30 July

LD3007084990 Moscow TASS in English 0732 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow July 30 TASS—The Soviet Union today launched an Earth satellite, "Cosmos-2088," using the cyclone booster rocket.

The satellite carries scientific equipment for space research.

The satellite was put into orbit with the following parameters:
—initial period of revolution 116 minutes;
—maximum distance from the Earth surface (apogee) 1,537 kilometres;
—minimum distance from the Earth surface (perigee) 1502 kilometres;
—inclination of the orbit 73.6 degrees.

Apart from scientific equipment, the satellite carries a radio system for taking precise measurements of elements of the orbit and a radio telemetric system for transmitting data on the performance of instruments and scientific equipment back to Earth.

The on-board equipment is functioning normally.

A coordination and computing centre is processing incoming information.

'Soyuz TM-10' Launch Planned for 1 August

LD2907173790

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1500 GMT on 29 July broadcast a 3.5-minute report by correspondent Bezyayev from the Baykonur space center on preparations for the "Soyuz TM-10" space launch.

Bezyayev opens by commenting on the weather conditions at the Baykonur Cosmodrome. He reports that a decision has been adopted to set up an international school for young cosmonauts at Baykonur. A Kuwaiti shaykh has expressed interest in the construction of such a school and talks are to take place in August. On the issue of the ecological damage caused in Kazakhastan by rocket stages falling to earth following launches, Bezyayev says that the Baykonur Administration has assured him that all such stages will be cleared from the regions concerned by the end of the year. Bezyayev concludes his report by saying that he will be able to report on 31 July which crew will man the "Soyuz TM-10" craft. The launch is planned for "1 August at 1332 Moscow time" [0932 GMT].

Military

Military Call-Up Resisted in Armenia, Baltics

LD2707192590

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1612 GMT on 27 July, in its "Panorama" program, carries a two-minute report by an unidentified commentator who introduces Major General (Spitsen) and Colonel (Sergeyev). According to (Spitsen), "around 96 percent of the replenishment of young people have already arrived in the Army and Navy in accordance with the plan for remanning the Armed Forces." He states that time limits have been set regarding work on the call-up and that the Ukraine; Belorussia; Azerbaijan; the regions of the Volga, the Urals, and Siberia; the Baykal; and the Far East have met the required numbers because much time and effort is being devoted there to the problems of the call-up to military service. The situation is quite different in the Baltics and in the Armenian and Georgian Soviet Socialist Republics, he notes. "Here, the situation throughout the call-up period up to the present day has continued to remain complex and instable. Forces in these regions with anti-Army attitudes have constanly been implementing and are continuing to implement a direct boycott of the carrying out of the USSR law on universal military service." It is for this reason, he says, that the call-up plans have not been met in these republics.

The commentator asks him to give specific figures. He replies: "To the present day around 41 percent have been sent to the Army and Navy from the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR]; 55.5 percent from the Latvian SSR; 42 percent from the Estonian SSR; 28 percent from the Georgian SSR; and the Armenian SSR has fulfilled just 7.5 percent of its call-up plan."

Profile of Colonel General Shaposhnikov

PM2707165190 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Jul 90 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed profile of "Colonel General of Aviation Yevgeniy Ivanovich Shaposhnikov, Commander in Chief of the Air Force and USSR Deputy Defense Minister"]

[Text] Colonel General of Aviation Yevgeniy Ivanovich Shaposhnikov has been appointed commander in chief of the Air Force and USSR deputy defense minister.

Yevgeniy Ivanovich Shaposhnikov was born into a worker's family in Bolshoy Log Village in Rostov Oblast's Aksayskiy Rayon 3 February 1942. He graduated from the Twice Hero of the Soviet Union S.I. Gritsevets Pilots' Higher Military Air College in Kharkov in 1963. He has been a CPSU member since 1963.

He began his military career as a pilot. He then became a senior pilot and flight commander. After graduating from the Yu.A. Gagarin Military Air Academy in 1969 he was appointed commander of an air squadron. From 1973 he was commander of a fighter air regiment. From 1975 he was deputy commander of a fighter air division. From 1976 he was commander of a fighter air division. From 1979 he was deputy Air Force commander for combat training in a district.

He graduated from the K.Ye. Voroshilov USSR Armed Forces General Staff Military Academy in 1984 and was appointed deputy Air Force chief of a district. From 1985 he was Air Force commander of a district. From 1987 he was commander of the Group of Soviet Forces in the German Air Force. From 1988 he was first deputy commander in chief of the Air Force.

He was elected a member of the CPSU Central Committee at the 28th CPSU Congress.

Army Denies Intimidation of Coal Strikers

PM2607104390 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jul 90 Second Edition p 4

[Report by Lieutenant Colonel N. Fedoseyev: "How NASHA GAZETA Scared the Kuzbass"]

[Text] Siberian Military District—The day before the miners' warning political strike, NASHA GAZETA—the publication of the Union of Kuzbass Working People—published an "Appeal of the Kuzbass Council of Workers Committees to the Top Leadership of the Soviet Army and Navy, to Officers, Warrant Officers, Ensigns, Sergeants, Senior Soldiers (sic—N.F.), and Sailors of the Armed Forces, and to KGB and Ministry of Internal Affairs Troops of the USSR." The appeal was prefaced by the trenchant headline "Before Giving the Command 'Fire!'"

Allow me to cite from this "document": "Commander, whatever your rank, remember that in giving the order to open fire, you are shooting at your own people, your mothers and fathers, daughters and sons, sisters and brothers. Every sergeant and every soldier, whatever your nationality, remember that in the sights of your assault rifle stands the mother of a guy like you, and that somewhere a guy just like you in another corner of our great motherland will hold your innocent mother in his sights. Each officer and soldier remember that war against one's own people is a war that is criminal and shameful...."

The words of this appeal truly chill the heart and instill panic in the uninformed. Indeed, how could it do otherwise—if such an appeal appears, it means that on the day of the strike the Army really does intend to go out into the squares and streets of the cities of the Kuzbass in order to shed the blood of miners, their mothers, sisters, and wives. A nightmare, no doubt about it. Reading all this, I would just like to ask representatives of the Kuzbass Council of Workers Committees and the editors of NASHA GAZETA: Comrades, you surely cannot be serious about this? Surely your sense of reality and proportion, your common sense, have not betrayed you? Or do you have irrefutable proof that the Army is merely waiting for the command to crush the Kuzbass miners' strike with gunfire?

There is no such proof and cannot be any. This is well known both in the Council of Workers Committees and at the editorial board of NASHA GAZETA. But it evidently suits some people to inflame passions, fuel the situation, and scare people with the "bloodthirstiness" of the military who are allegedly prepared to go to war against their own people. So they look for any grounds to cast as heavy a stone as possible at the Army. And if there are no grounds they simply make them up....

The same issue of NASHA GAZETA publishes a photograph by an anonymous photographer of several tanks on railroad flatcars. The caption underneath claims that the photo was taken in the mining town of Kiselevsk three weeks before the strike.

"What is this," the paper asks, "a demonstration of the Army's unity with the people? The flexing of armored military muscle in order to intimidate?"

I phoned one of the coeditors of NASHA GAZETA, D. Shagiakhmetov, and asked whether he possessed information that these tanks were intended to intimidate miners intending to strike. "But you see, they were not even covered," the coeditor said, advancing his "weightiest" argument. "But where they were going and why, I don't know. The military makes a secret out of everything."

Strange logic: In the editorial office they have no idea from where and why the tanks turned up in Kiselevsk (indeed, are they in Kiselevsk?) but nonetheless they present this fact in their own interpretation. The technique is simple: A photograph of combat vehicles has come into our hands—stick it in the newspaper and compose any caption you like to go underneath. The main thing is to play on people's nerves and swing public opinion your way.

Now regarding the tanks themselves. Here is what I was told by Major General V. Kichatov, chief of staff of the district, to whom I showed the photographs:

"I have no idea where the tanks found their way to Kiselevsk from. At the time indicated by the paper there were no movements of military vehicles by railroad in the district. Especially in the Kuzbass where we essentially have almost no troops. What is more, these are tanks of an obsolete type, they are being written off and sent to be melted down everywhere."

"Yes, they are T-55s," experts from the armor service of the district's arms administration confirmed what the chief of staff had said. "They have not been in the armory of Siberian Military District troops for a long time now. And we dismantle on the spot those which remain in the storage depots and send them off for scrap. It is possible that the tanks were being taken for this very purpose from another region. And as for the question 'Why were they not covered?'—only secret equipment is transported under cover, and what is the sense in hiding scrap metal from someone else's eyes?"

Thus everything appears to be clear as regards the tanks. There is not even a trace of the "mysterious clouds of military secrecy" here (that is NASHA GAZETA's expression.) "The mysterious cloud" is caused rather by the newspaper itself which has demonstrated how very irresponsible, if not worse, the people who work there are.

Admiral Panin Interviewed on Status of Navy

LD2907164890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Interview with Admiral Vasiliy Ivanovich Panin, USSR Defense Council member and chief of the Soviet Navy Political Directorate, by Kim Kukholev on 29 July, USSR Navy Day; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Kukholev] Vasiliy Ivanovich, let me start with the traditional question. With what successes in combat and political training are you ushering in your festive day?

[Panin] It must be said that the Navy is successfully solving its tasks and is performing its service in worthy fashion. There are of course hitches and miscalculations. After all, we are learning and naturally we make mistakes. On the whole, however, as I have already said, the Navy is performing its service in a skilled way. Firing exercises are being carried out with some increase in quality.

[Kukholev] In my first question I used the phrase combat and political training. We are now aware that there is talk of depoliticizing the Army and Navy. What is your attitude to this?

[Panin] My attitude to this is negative. I do not accept this notion. Let us take a reasoned look at things. Our society is at present becoming more and more politicized, it is said, and the armed services section of our society should be entirely removed from social life. That is definitely an absurdity. Secondly, our profession defends the fatherland. Well tell me why would our sailors, warrant-officesr, and officers sacrifice themselves for the fatherland? It is certainly for their own people, for the freedom of their people, and for the independence of their state. Surely this constitutes politics—it is very much politics!

[Kukholev] Here I shall adopt the pose of opponent and answer your question of why. They will do it for money, if one is speaking of a professional army and a professional navy. After all, there are salaried regular armies throughout the whole world.

[Panin] Yes, in many states, including the United States, there are professional regular armies. But consider the following points in this respect. First, one should surely remember the fact that wars are not waged by the members of a caste. They are, as Lenin specified, waged by peoples. Therefore universal military training of, say, the male population is, as long as danger still exists in the world—and it does still exist, we have no doubts on that score—this universal military training is compulsory and the most acceptable for possible crises. Second, if there were indeed a salaried regular army, then professionals would probably come along and serve their contracts and they would probably, so to speak, earn their money and would apparently adopt a more responsible attitude toward their service. But there is a paradox here. After all, our country does in effect have professionals within the composition of the Armed Forces. Take submarines or aviation.

[Kukholev] Yes, the officers in those areas already constitute professional members of the Army and Navy, but we are only talking about compulsory service.

[Panin] Well, let us address the issue this way. Let us suppose that our society and state agree to a professional and—I reiterate—salaried regular Army. How much will one have to pay a sailor under his contract? We do have examples of this. Our warrant-officers [michmany i praporshchiki] do serve under contract, and I must tell you that the percentage of personnel on contract is not fully up to complement in the Navy. Therefore we have doubts whether, with our transfer to contract service, all the specialities that are manned by compulsory service would be filled. After all, the Navy is located in regions with poor social amenities. Human life is not now determined by money alone. There needs to be a social sphere and a social infrastructure—all very well developed. First and foremost there needs to be housing. Therefore this question cannot at present be answered unequivocally. One probably needs to go over to a mixed method of manning our armed services.

[Kukholev] As far as I know, the first step toward a professional army for those doing compulsory service has already been taken. From next year they will serve in the Navy not three but two years, and those serving beyond their term will receive substantial pay for doing so.

[Panin] Compulsory service is moving to a situation where the term of service will be two years. This is a very difficult transition and, frankly speaking, there are a very great number of concerns in this connection. We regard three years' service as a very short term indeed. I specifically have the Navy in mind. We shall be conducting an experiment in compulsory service recruitment by contract, as I have already been telling you. However we can already see that even the transition to a two-year term of service, however paradoxical it might be, requires great expenditure. We need to transfer to a new system not just in manning but also in training, and the training base must be expanded.

[Kukholev] Vasiliy Ivanovich, I have just returned from the Black Sea Fleet. Some sailors with whom I conversed there are of the view that it is necessary to radically alter the training process for those on compulsory service. In particular they say that it is necessary to close down and abolish training subunits. Let the sailors receive their speciality directly aboard ships.

[Panin] No, one cannot of course agree with that. Probably one could think about the length of the training in these training detachments. Probably one should think about the organization of the training and the quality of the training of specialists and the plentiful provision of the most up-to-date equipment, armaments, and technology for these training subunits.

[Kukholev] Well, further thought should probably be given to somehow easing the lot of the serviceman himself. I was told by officers, again in the Black Sea Fleet, that they are each working 17-18 hours a day, and the compulsory servicemen do not always have any leave.

[Panin] Well, let's say that to serve in the Navy one probably needs to be a person possessed and to be very fond of one's profession. The fact is that the idea of a limited working day does not in effect exist aboard ships, although certainly one needs to make the reservation that much can be done to regulate the working day of officers, warrant-officers, and sailors. In the present case, there is a decision by the commander-in-chief that each officer is to have off one day per week as a minimum. Our compulsory service sailors and petty-officers are certainly fully entitled to leave. For the time being, we have conditions for giving short-term leave in the homeland as an incentive for especially excellent service, but in principle this needs to be introduced as legislative norms. [passage omitted]

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the Navy's sailors on our professional festival and to wish them a good voyage and a safe return to their home base, and also to congratulate all those who are involved in the development of the Navy and to wish them all the best and happiness.

Foreign Military Attaches Meet Army Spokesman

PM2607135590 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jul 90 First Edition p 3

[Colonel V. Markushin report: "90 Minutes of Questions"]

[Text] An unusual meeting—or rather in today's times perhaps not so unusual a meeting—took place at Moscow's M.B. Grekov School: Foreign states' military attaches (around 50 of them assembled, including representatives of all Warsaw Pact and NATO countries) met with Colonel General G. Stefanovskiy, a delegate to the 28th CPSU Congress and deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

The topic of the conversation that took place can be formulated thus: the party congress and military reform in the USSR Armed Forces. The interest shown in this topic by those attending can be judged just from the number of questions—one and one-half hours were taken up with them. Of course interest can also be judged from the questions' content. They asked about problems associated with the reform of political organs and with changes in the content of educational work and the training of military cadres. They asked for comment on the congress resolution "On the Party's Main Military Policy Trends at the Contemporary Stage" and for a viewpoint on the possibility of the Army's depoliticization.

There was also this question: How has the Army's representation in the current Central Committee changed, and are there any servicemen without general's stars in the CPSU Central Committee? The answer, it seems, threw light on this question too. The current Central Committee includes representatives both of the higher military leadership and of colonel's rank, it includes military personnel from marshal to lieutenant colonel.

Army Communists' Views on Party Issues Cited

PM3007094790 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jul 90 First Edition p 4

[Commentary by Lieutenant Colonel F. Makarov, chief of the Public Opinion Research Methodology Group at the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate's Center for the Study of Social and Psychological Problems, in answer to a reader's letter: "What the Poll Showed"—first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] I read a review by Colonel L. Fadeyev, delegate to the 28th CPSU Congress (ARGUMENTY I FAKTY No. 27 this year), about the results of a poll carried out among members of a party organization on problems of party life. Does the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate carry out similar "measurements" and what do they showing? Or is this a secret?

[Signed] I. Vladimirov. Krasnoyarsk.

Lieutenant Colonel F. Makarov, chief of the Public Opinion Research Methodology Group at the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate's Center for the Study of Social and Psychological Problems:

We regularly study Army communists' opinions on the most important problems, including that of renewing the party.

For example, recent research involved polling servicemen from seven military districts and the Black Sea Fleet.

The main idea was to clarify communists' opinions and determine their attitude to the processes taking place in the CPSU.

The majority of communists see their party as an influential political force capable of resolving the many tasks in the restructuring process in society.

Here are some figures: Over 60 percent of communists declared their loyalty to the CPSU within the multiparty system that is forming in the country.

The majority of those polled supported the proposals on extending the rights of primary party organizations ("for"—80 percent); on the minority's right to defend its views even if the decisions adopted by the majority should be implemented without fail ("for"—75 percent); on holding direct elections for delegates to congresses and conferences on a contested basis ("for"—86 percent); on granting true independence to Union republic Communist Parties ("for"—72 percent); on the creation of a RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Communist Party ("for"—70 percent); and on guaranteeing a variety of attitudes and platforms in the party ("for"—69 percent). Army and Navy communists advocated the existence of a multiparty system in the country amid the building of a rule-of-law state ("for"—85 percent).

Army communists are perfectly well aware that the CPSU will only preserve its role as the leader of restructuring processes if it resolutely renews itself, and therefore they are far from indifferent to this process.

As the poll showed, only 3.5 percent of all those polled noted that they are indifferent to the CPSU's future.

Baltic Republics

Reportage on Meeting of Baltic Leaders

USSR Measures Protested

LD2807112190 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1019 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Statement read at Lithuanian Supreme Council session in Vilnius—live]

[Text] A statement by the Council of Baltic States. The Council of Baltic States notes that the central bodies of the USSR are taking various measures aiming at hindering the restoration of the state independence of the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Estonia and at destabilizing the situation in the Baltic region.

One such measure is the setting up, on the instructions of the USSR Council of Ministers, of the integral association, which unites in [word indistinct] order enterprises and organizations of so-called Union subordination, subordinated directly to the USSR Council of Ministers.

The Council of the Baltic States regards such steps as a crudest violation of the rights of the independent state of the Republic of Estonia aiming at dividing and disorganizing its entire economy. Such steps radically contradict Article 5 Section 2 of the concluding document of the Copenhagen session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Council of Baltic States resolutely protests against such actions which are contrary to the law and states that they can only lead to complications in resolving the problems existing between the Baltic states and the USSR.

On behalf of the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Estonia, the Council of Baltic States also confirms its solidarity and readiness to support with all efforts those against whom such methods are being used.

[Signed] Vytautas Landsbergis, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Arnold Ruutel
[Dated] 28 July 1990, Jurmala.

Union Treaty Cooperation Rejected

LD2807120190 Vilnius Domestic Service in Russian 1022 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Statement read at Lithuanian Supreme Council session in Vilnius—live]

[Text] Statement of the Council of Baltic States—the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, and the Republic of Estonia, represented by their plenipotentiary representatives in the Council of Baltic States:

Being guided by the acts of the Supreme Councils of the three Baltic states establishing their independence which is the basis of forming all further relations with the USSR, peace treaties and other treaties concluded by the Baltic states among themselves and with the USSR up to June 1940, while wishing to maintain equal and friendly relations with the USSR and its Union republics and other states, and bearing in mind the process of concluding agreements with the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] and other USSR republics and other states, and also the already concluded agreements between the Baltic states:

1. The plenipotentiary representatives of the three Baltic states have not taken part in the drawing up of the Union treaty of the USSR and do not consider they will be able to take part in this process in the future.

2. Any agreements concluded by the three Baltic states with the USSR, its Union republics, and other states can only be concluded on the basis of the act of the Supreme Councils of our states on the restoration of their independence.

3. It is most expedient to conduct negotiations with the USSR in accordance with the principle three-plus-one or simultaneously and in close coordination. They must result in agreements of a political nature on the basis of which further agreements on relations and cooperation in individual spheres of activity and interests will be concluded.

4. The three Baltic states have no territorial, property, or other claims against each other.

5. The three Baltic states appeal to each of the 12 republics of the USSR individually to state the existence of any territorial, property, or other demands on the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, and the Republic of Estonia. Failure to receive a reply within one month will be deemed to indicate the absence of such claims.

[Signed] The chairmen of the Supreme Councils, Gorbunovs, Ruutel, Landsbergis
[Dated] 27 July 1990.

Talks To Begin With Russia

LD2807173490 Warsaw PAP in English 1525 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Vilnius, July 28, PAP—Heads of the Supreme Soviets of the republics of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Russia have resolved to start without delay preparations for bilateral negotiations between the Russian and the three Baltic republics, the ELTA news agency reported today.

The heads met in Yurmala yesterday and decided that negotiations would help work out political and legal accords and agreements on relations in economy, science, technology, trade, social affairs, culture and on citizenship. The sides agreed not to forward any preconditions.

The negotiations are to be held by special commissions whose work should end within two months.

Soviet Forces Presence Condemned

LD2907185590 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Chairmen of the Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian Supreme Councils spoke unanimously against the continued presence of the Soviet Armed Forces in the Baltic republics.

The Red Army forces on the territory of the Baltic republics are an occupational force. Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Estonian Supreme Council, pointed out the Estonian Government would try to reach an agreement with Moscow concerning the gradual withdrawal of Soviet Armed Forces from the territory of Estonia.

Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, said Lithuania must be a neutral state. These issues were discussed by chairman of Supreme Councils of the Baltic republics at a meeting with a correspondent from Italian state television, third channel.

Tomorrow these statements and comments by the television correspondent about military units stationed in the Baltic republics and the strategic importance of the Baltic republics to the Soviet Union will be broadcast on the Italian television third channel in the program "Let's Turn Over a Page.".

Reportage on Yeltsin Meetings With Leaders

Interviewed on Baltic Treaties

LD2707231590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2100 GMT 27 Jul 90

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] [Announcer] The INTERFAX agency, citing the (Baltiya) agency has supplied the following information. Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, has declared that treaties with Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia must be among the first which Russia concludes. Yeltsin is presently resting in Yurmala. A day of extremely intense work is today behind the leaders of the Baltic republics and Russia. A report from Latvian television. [video shows Yeltsin, Ruutel, Landsbergis, Gorbunov seated at a table, conversing]

[Unidentified correspondent] It is 1800. A meeting between the four chairmen of the Supreme Soviets has taken place: Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR; Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian Republic; Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian Republic; Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian Republic. The meeting is of a confidential nature, and the press was allowed in for only two minutes. It was proposed that a joint communique be adopted. After the meeting, Anatolijs Valeryanovich Gorbunovs gave a dinner in honor of the guests. [video shows meeting between deputies and democratic movements' representatives]

There was another meeting as well. At 1400 today, a conversation took place in the Red Hall of the Supreme Soviet between deputies from the Supreme Soviet and representatives from more than 10 democratic movements in Russia. The meeting was conducted by Daynis Ivans, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet [of the Latvian Supreme Soviet]. Among our guests were representatives of the Social Democratic Party, the Democratic Party, the Russian Democratic Party, the Free Democratic Party, the Democratic Platform of the CPSU, the Memorial Society, the Club of Electors [Klub Izbirateley], and also the anarcho-syndicalists and the cadets. The meeting was organized and also sponsored by the Community Foundation [Fond sodruzhestva]. Deputies from the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian Republic answered questions from the guests.

[Announcer] Treaties between Russia and the Baltic republics are already acquiring quite real features. In Yeltsin's words, the treaty between Russia and Latvia should be ready for signing in no later than one and a half months. A correspondent from Latvian television interviewed Yeltsin. We present a fragment of this to you. [video shows Yeltsin being interviewed by correspondent]

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Tell me please, what will the pay-off be for Russia in concluding a treaty with Latvia?

[Yeltsin] This is a treaty based on equal rights between two sovereign states, republics. And some kind of pay-off, as it were, will be drawn up in this treaty. The pay-off today is a direct one since we have both [as heard] the supply of output and cultural exchanges, and scientific and technical progress, and social problems, and the problems of emigration, and the problems of refugees, and the problems of interethnic relations...[pauses] there are a very large number of problems which, perhaps, in the treaty...[pauses] it is not quite that the pay-off will be precisely in gaining something, but rather in these problems being solved better, with joint efforts rather than by each in his own way. [end recording]

Latvia's Krastins Meets Yeltsin

LD2707202290 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 1035 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Yesterday in Jurmala representatives of the Latvian parliament met with Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. Also taking part in the talks was Andreis Krastins, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Latvia, who has worked out a draft treaty between Latvia and Russia. Andreis Krastins was interviewed by Imants Austrins:

[Begin recording] [Austrins] Will yesterday's talks with Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, accelerate the stages of the working out of the treaty between Latvia and Russia?

[Krastins] I think that in practice they have been accelerated, because in preparing for this meeting with Boris Yeltsin, a possible draft treaty, a working variant, was worked out, which, when meeting Boris Yeltsin, was also submitted to him, for him to get familiar with it, to look at. As a result of this meeting, agreement was reached that as early as next week an authorized Latvian delegation will visit Moscow to meet with an authorized delegation of the Russian Federation to work out together a possible draft treaty, and also a possible time for concluding the treaty, which might take about a month or a month and a half to work out for signing.

[Austrins] Did Boris Yeltsin make any assessments of the draft offered to him; did he also make any critical remarks?

[Krastins] No, Yeltsin did not make any such remarks about the draft, if only because the draft was presented to him during the meeting and he did not have an opportunity to become familiar with it. However, we ascertained that Yeltsin, not yet having seen our draft, expressed his thoughts on what this treaty could be like in principle. He touched on many of those questions that we have already incorporated into this draft treaty. This means that our political thinking is very close to Boris Yeltsin's. We had anticipated beforehand that there should certainly be such individual points in the treaty, and Boris Yeltsin also said—not yet having seen our version of the treaty—said that he would like that there would be such points in the treaty, and our thinking concurred on this.

[Austrins] So, the emphasis of this political part is that Russia, without political and economic conditions, would also recognize our independence?

[Krastins] Yes. In this treaty, with this, the practical political part of the treaty begins: That Russia hold talks with Latvia and concludes a treaty, recognizing that the Republic of Latvia is an independent state. With Yeltsin's attitude, it concurs; it is natural that he is the highest leader of Russia. The Supreme Soviet of Russia and the Russian congress also exist, which perhaps have their opinions, but in the talk with Yeltsin—before he consults with his associates in the Russian Federation—we arrived at the conviction that at least in the present period, the Russian Federation would agree.

[Austrins] Was it possible in the course of the meeting, to feel an aura of a great personality present at such a talk?

[Krastins] Difficult to say, because the talks were very business-like, and concerned also political and economic questions. One could only become convinced of Boris Yeltsin's competence, and even perhaps somewhere to envy his exceptional political enterprise in such a critical situation, to carry out in such a huge state as Russia, such political, radical transformations, and moreover, such which are very often in contradiction with the political standpoint of the USSR leadership.

[Austrins] Thank you for the interview. [end recording]

Talks With Latvian Leaders

PM3007092390 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Irina Litvinova report: "B. Yeltsin on Talks With Latvia"]

[Text] Riga—Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, has held an official dinner in honor of Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, who is vacationing in Jurmala.

A group of deputies representing the Latvian People's Front faction took part in the meeting with B. Yeltsin. Agreement was reached that a Latvian delegation will visit Moscow 30 July to start talks on the signing of a treaty between the RSFSR and Latvia. In B. Yeltsin's opinion, the document should be signed in no more than one and one-half months' time. The RSFSR does not intend to make any preliminary political or economic conditions, the chairman of the Russian parliament noted.

In an interview broadcast in the evening on Latvian Television, B.N. Yeltsin said that he was having a good vacation in Jurmala, despite the fact that he had had to work—specifically, to meet with the Latvian leadership and discuss various problems. The chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet noted that he sees a future treaty between Russia and Latvia as an equal agreement between sovereign states. In reply to the question "what is Russia's interest in concluding a treaty with Latvia?" B. Yeltsin said that "we do not intend to gain anything, rather we will be able to solve certain problems more quickly together than separately." Among these B. Yeltsin included economic, social, and cultural problems, and questions of interethnic relations.

B. Yeltsin explained that he does not advocate the separation of republics, merely the utmost autonomy for them. He also sees this policy as promising within Russia, where it is necessary to give autonomous entities the level of independence which they consider necessary.

Republic 'Independence' Urged

LD2907182790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Jul 90

[From the foreign news round-up of the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] At a meeting in Jurmala, chairmen of the Supreme Soviets of Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia agreed to begin work on drawing up state treaties between Russia and the three Baltic republics.

Speaking on Latvian radio, the Russian leader Boris Yeltsin said that Russia would sign these treaties in four to six weeks. At the same time, he stressed that while he advocated the maximum independence of the republics, he does not call upon them to leave the Soviet Union.

Baltic Fronts' Resolution on 'Occupation'

90UN2272A Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA in Russian 21 Jun 90 p 3

[Resolution of the Estonian People's Front, Latvian People's Front, and Lithuanian movement "Sajudis": "On the Continuing Occupation of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union"]

[Text] On 14 June 1940, the USSR Government presented an ultimatum to the legitimate government of the Lithuanian Republic, and on 16 June to the legitimate governments of the Latvian and Estonian republics, in accordance with which the Soviet Union claimed the right to send in its troops and station them in these states as it saw fit, in essence claiming the right to occupy Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

The governments of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia yielded to the force in hopes of avoiding annihilation of their people.

On 15 June 1940, the Army of the USSR occupied the territory of Lithuania, and on 17 June, the territories of Latvia and Estonia. On 17 June in Lithuania, 20 June in Latvia, and 21 June 1940 in Estonia, NKVD [People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs] forces, with the direct participation of USSR Armed Forces, overthrew these legal governments and established collaborationist governments controlled by the USSR.

On 3 August 1940 in the case of Lithuania, 5 August 1940 for Latvia, and 6 August 1940 for Estonia, these entities were incorporated into the composition of the USSR.

Annexation of the Baltic states, accomplished in accordance with secret treaties between the USSR and Germany in 1939, comprises an illegal act from the point of view of conventional international law, the principles of which were acknowledged and contained in treaties concluded between the USSR and Baltic countries.

Insofar as any occupation is in essence temporary, it does not automatically alter the legal existence of the occupied state, no matter how long the occupation lasts.

International law does not acknowledge occupation or annexation as a basis for terminating the existence of a state.

The will of the peoples of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania has been suppressed for many years under threat of violence. Today for the first time since 1940, the peoples of the Baltic states—they themselves as well as through their elective organs—have expressed their will. But realization of this will of the people is encountering resistance. In spite of the clearly expressed will of the people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and their peace-loving aspirations to attain restoration of their independence and autonomy, threats and an atmosphere of terror continue to be injected by the USSR apparatus; major contingents of the USSR Armed Forces and state security forces continue to be maintained and used against the people, their elected representatives, and state institutions.

We are dealing in the Baltic countries with a continuing occupation. Whereas the possibility of a reunited Germany is recognized by all countries who took part in World War II, the single unresolved consequence of the war continues to be the trampled-upon independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

The peoples of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are not just the victims of crimes of Stalinism. The policies of the present USSR leadership continue to be criminal in their occupation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

The peoples of the Baltic states are continuing their peace-loving struggle in the name of ending their occupation by the USSR.

[Signed] Estonian People's Front, Latvian People's Front, Lithuanian Movement "Sajudis"
[Dated] Jurmala, 16 June 1990

27 Jul Lithuanian Supreme Council Session Carried

Trade Union Property Debated

LD2707115890

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 0815 GMT on 27 July resumes its broadcast of a live relay of the Lithuanian Supreme Council session in Vilnius.

At 0818 GMT, Deputy Abisalas announces that 21 speakers are to take part in the debates on the property of the former trade unions.

At 0821 GMT, questions and debates continue. Radzevicius, representative of the free Lithuanian trade unions, expresses his opinion that the issue of the property of former trade unions should not be dealt with at the Supreme Council.

At 0925 GMT, debates continue.

At 0945 GMT, discussions take place on what to do next—hand over preparations of the draft law to an editorial commission or continue debates. The discussion is sometimes very heated, especially concerning such points as the allocation of vouchers to sanatoria and membership fees.

At 1000 GMT, a vote is taken to instruct permanent commissions of the Supreme Council to examine the issue of the property of former trade unions. This proposal is adopted. The commissions have to submit the results of their decision to the council next week.

At 1010 GMT, Deputy Juknevicius takes the floor to make a report on the draft procuracy law and amendments to the provisional basic law in this connection.

At 1015 GMT, a vote is taken to introduce an amendment in the basic law changing the title "procurator" into "general procurator". This amendment is adopted.

At 1017 GMT, there is a debate on amendment to Article 125. After a lengthy debate on the procedure, vote was taken once again on changing the title of "procurator" to "general procurator". The majority of votes is in favor.

At 1035 GMT, a vote was taken on the constitutional amendment as it was submitted. The amendment is not adopted.

At 1039 GMT, a vote is taken on other amendments (details indistinct). A vote is taken on individual articles in the draft law concerning mostly editorial corrections.

At 1052 GMT, an internal is announced until 1230 GMT.

Procuracy, Pensions Discussed

LD2707151790

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 1230 GMT on 27 July resumes its live relay of the Lithuanian Supreme Council session in Vilnius.

At 1232 GMT, an examination of individual articles in the draft law on procuracy takes place.

At 1255 GMT, an examination of individual articles and voting on amendments is continued.

At 1320 GMT, a vote is taken on the whole draft law on procuracy. It is adopted by a majority of 89 votes. The Supreme Council decided that this law comes into force today.

At 1326 GMT, Deputy Simenas presents the draft law on pensions. He states that this draft law has been already debated and now amendments have been introduced. According to this, draft law pensions are to be increased. The work related to the granting of pensions will be very difficult and long because 860,000 cases concerning pensions are to be examined. Unfortunately, there are no computers in the republic to step up this work.

At 1336 GMT, questions about the draft law are asked.

At 1340 GMT, debates take place. The speaker answers questions.

At 1406 GMT, Deputy Pleckaitis is urged to increase pensions for those who need it most. Various proposals by deputies are made. Many deputies are concerned about pensions paid to people who have nothing to do with the republic and to retired soldiers.

At 1410 GMT, an interval is declared until 1440 GMT

At 1440 GMT, the session resumes its work. Debates continue—details indistinct.

At 1451 GMT, it seems that there is no quorum and voting cannot take place.

Landsbergis Calls for 'Three Plus One' Talks

LD2707205190 Moscow TASS in English 2041 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius July 28 TASS—Commenting on a meeting of the Baltic Council which began in Riga on Friday, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told Lithuanian television that leaders from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia will discuss a draft Union accord being prepared in the Soviet Union, their progress towards independence and the forthcoming talks with the Soviet Union.

"It would be nice if the forthcoming talks with the Soviet Union were held under the three plus one formula, with the participation of Latvia and Estonia," Landsbergis said.

If this is impossible, then "representatives of neighbouring states could take part in the talks as observers", he said.

The Baltic Council will probably pass documents confirming that the three republics have similar positions and are prepared to enter negotiations together.

Participants in the Baltic Council are expected to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is on a vacation in Latvia, Landsbergis said.

Lithuanian Civil Committee Appeals to Gorbachev

LD2707205590 Moscow TASS in English 2025 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius July 28 TASS—Representatives of cities and areas which disagreed with the republic's secession from the USSR should also participate in the forthcoming talks between Lithuania and the Soviet Union, says an appeal to President Mikhail Gorbachev which was adopted by the session of the republican Civil Committee today.

The session discussed the political situation in Lithuania on the eve of the talks. The report on this issue was delivered by committee Chairman Vladislav Shved.

The appeal notes that, "respecting the right of the Lithuanian people to self-determination, the secession of Lithuania from the USSR (if it takes place) should be approved by a referendum and in compliance with the Soviet law on secession".

The appeal also suggests that "if the republic withdraws from the USSR, the structures of Soviet power ensuring the rights of Soviet citizens living in Lithuania should be preserved over the transition period".

28 Jul Lithuanian Supreme Council Session Carried

Kuzmickas on Moscow Talks

LD2807131290

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 0635 GMT on 28 July is intercepted in progress, broadcasting a live relay of the Lithuanian Supreme Council session in Vilnius. Bronius Kuzmickas, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, is in the process of giving a report on the upcoming negotiations with Moscow.

Among other things, Kuzmickas says: "The most important document is the protocol. Beginning its work on the protocol, the commission based itself on a draft protocol proposed by the government, but a great deal has been accomplished and the protocol by the government. This protocol should not be discussed openly because negotiations with another state are a special matter"

"It is obvious to everyone that the protocol is an especially important document." "I would like to acquaint you with the protocol; there is a historical preamble."

Deputy Abisalas, chairing the session, interrupts:

"Forgive me, esteemed rapporteur. You stated that this protocol should not be discussed. Perhaps you, or esteemed deputies, would think that it would be necessary to switch off the radio broacast and apologise to the people of the Lithuania because it is a diplomatic document and since it is not signed one should not examine it openly. Do the deputies agree that the radio broadcast should be discontinued?"

Kuzmickas then states that this issue should not be discussed, as his commission has completed the first stage of its work. No decision is made on a closed sitting of the council.

At 0648 GMT, Kuzmickas begins answering deputies' questions. One asks whether or not Lithuania should delay the start of the negotiations. Kuzmickas replies: "There is no doubt that there is no sense in delaying the negotiations, and we are not going to do this, but there is a need to hurry, without proper preparations." "Any delay on our part would be unjustified because the world also is waiting for the negotiations, and by delaying them we would reduce Lithuania's prestige."

Upcoming Moscow Talks Discussed

LD2807075690

[Editorial Report] At 0635 GMT on 28 July a live relay of a Lithuanian Supreme Council session is monitored in progress from Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian. Deputy Kuzmickas is heard making a report on the upcoming negotiations with Moscow.

At 0648 GMT, debates start. Several deputies express their opinion that at present no documents relating to the negotiations with Moscow should be discussed as they will later have to be ratified by the Supreme Council. Deputy Kuzmickas answers deputies' questions.

At 0657 GMT, Deputy Sadreika proposes that a Lithuanian delegation be formed without delay and that this item should be included in Monday's agenda of the Supreme Council Session.

At 0704 GMT, Deputy Jursenas urges the Supreme Council to hold a closed session to discuss all matters concerning the Moscow negotiations.

At 0708 GMT, Deputy Sakalas reports that 89 deputies are present at the sitting and thus there is no quorum. He reads the names of absent deputies.

At 0716 GMT, Prime Minister Prunskiene announces that the present director of the Lithuanian Bank, Povilaitis, has resigned, and proposes that deputy Vilius Baldisis should be appointed to this post. After her announcement she answers questions by deputies concerning this issue.

At 0732 GMT, an interval is announced until 0800 GMT.

Bank Director Speaks

LD2807100590

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 0800 GMT on 28 July resumes its live relay of the Lithuanian Supreme Council session being held in Vilnius.

At 0802 GMT, Lithuanian Bank Director Povilaitis describes the work of his bank and stated that he has been facing many very complex problems, that he is unable to cope with them, and asks the council to accept his resignation. The statute of the bank has been prepared and has been approved by the government, but as yet has not been passed by the Economic Commission of the Supreme Council. In conclusion, he supports the candidature of Vilius Baldisis to the post of chairman of the board of the Lithuanian Bank.

At 0812 GMT, Povilaitis answers questions by deputies, explaining that he is not suitable to occupy his present post because he is not firm and strong enough. At present there are nine officials employed by the bank.

At 0816 GMT, Deputy Abisalas states that there are 92 deputies present in the hall—still no quorum.

At 0820 GMT, Deputy Vilius Baldisis says he is aware of the problems facing the bank, but he has enough experience in banking and has no moral right to refuse the post offered to him. His aim will be to enlist those few experienced people in Lithuania in order to implement the tasks facing the bank.

At 0825 GMT, Baldisis answers questions by the deputies.

At 0831 GMT, Deputy Abisalas proposes that questions to the candidate should be postponed and in the meantime other issues requiring voting should be dealt with. There is now a quorum.

At 0834 GMT, questions to the candidate continue.

At 0836 GMT, a proposal is again made to consider the candidature of Baldisis in the commissions. This proposal is approved by a majority of votes.

At 0837 GMT, the deputies vote to accept the resignation of Povilaitis and ask him to continue his duties until a new chairman of the board of the Lithuanian Bank is appointed. The resignation of Povilaitis is accepted by a majority of 69 votes.

At 0840 GMT, Deputy Antanavicius makes a brief report on a meeting of the economic commission which failed to approve the statute of the Lithuanian Bank. Objection was raised at that meeting to an article that the Lithuanian Bank should govern commercial banks.

At 0842 GMT, a vote is taken on pensions—social and working pensions to be paid to men and women who reach the age of (?65). This law is adopted by a majority of votes. Additional grants to be paid to women who have five children—approved by a majority of votes.

At 0849 GMT, a vote is taken on the draft law on pensions—the law is passed by 88 votes.

At 0853 GMT, amendments to the draft law on joint stock companies are read out.

At 0903 GMT, debate begins. Heated discussion starts on whether to pass this law now or postpone it until the fall.

At 0935 GMT, the deputies decide to start the procedure of passing this now by a majority of 69 votes.

At 0938 GMT, an interval is announced until 1010 GMT.

Baltic Leaders Meeting Reported

LD2807110790

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 1014 GMT on 28 July resumes its live relay from the Supreme Council session being held in Vilnius.

A report on the meeting of the Baltic leaders with Yeltsin is read in Russian.

At 1019 GMT, statements by the Baltic Council are read in Russian.

At 1025 GMT, the text of statements is distributed among the deputies. Deputy Abisalas briefly describes the work of the council carried out this week, and issues which should be debated next week before the recess.

At 1032 GMT, discussion begins on the unjustified absence of some deputies. Apologies by some deputies are heard.

At 1038 GMT, Deputy Abisalas announces that the next plenary sitting will take place at 0900 GMT on 31 July. The live relay ends.

Kuzmickas Says Possible Talks With USSR in Aug

LD2807211990

[Editorial report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1930 GMT on 28 July carries a four-minute unscheduled report in which an unidentified correspondent presents a roundup of events in Lithuania over the past week, in which he outlines the work of the republican Supreme Council and government. Moving on to the question of Lithuanian talks with the Soviet Union, the correspondent asks Kuzmickas, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, why both sides are taking so long in beginning talks. Kuzmickas says: "For some time it seemed to us that it was the Soviet side that was dragging things out, but it now turns out that we are proceeding slightly tardily, and this has its causes, because we are taking a very serious attitude. In the commission for political, legal and diplomatic preparation, we are preparing documents, preliminary documents, which will define certain conditions, without which we would not like to begin the talks." The correspondent, addressing viewers, goes on: "To a question concerning the mooted specific date, this was the reply: The second half of August."

Prunskiene on Negotiations With Russia, USSR

LD2907125690 Moscow TASS in English 1249 GMT 29 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent]

[Text] Vilnius July 29 TASS—"Talks with the leadership of the USSR are more important for the attainment of real independence by Lithuania," Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene emphasised in a Lithuanian radio interview.

"It is precisely the USSR, not Russia, that has the Army, and is in control of borders and other vitally important spheres," she said.

Commenting on the results of the Friday meeting in Jurmala, a health resort near Riga, of parliament chairman of the Russian Federation and the three Baltic republics, she stated the [as received] Lithuania should hold "parallel negotiations—both with Russia and with the USSR".

30 Jul Lithuanian Supreme Council Session Carried

LD3007123790

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian at 0902 GMT on 30 July begins a live relay of the Lithuanian Supreme Council session in Vilnius, chaired by Cesoslav Stankevicius.

Stankevicius announces that the draft law on the taxation of Lithuanian citizens is to be debated in the fall session.

At 0905 GMT, he reads a provisional agenda for today and tomorrow. A closed session is to take place today at 1600 GMT. His proposed agenda comprises only the adoption of various routine laws.

At 0911 GMT, proposals and amendments to the agenda are made. Stankevicius announces that a closed session will take place tomorrow to discuss negotiations with Moscow.

At 0922 GMT, Deputy Gediminas Vagnorius describes various amendments made to the draft law on joint stock companies.

At 0932 GMT, debates on individual articles start and the voting on individual articles takes place.

At 0940 GMT, voting on individual articles in the draft law continues.

At 1030 GMT, the draft law on joint stock companies is adopted by a majority of votes.

At 1045 GMT, an interval is declared until 1215 gmt.

At 1215 GMT, the session resumes work. Debates start on the coming into force of the law on joint stock companies.

Latvia Will Not Participate in New Union Treaty

LD2707210690 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 0430 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The visit to the United States by Ivars Godmanis, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Latvia, and by Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans is continuing. The more important visits during the last days have been to the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. In the discussions at this center, Ivars Godmanis stressed that the Latvian government and parliamentary representatives do not intend to take part in the working out of the new Union treaty of the USSR. [passage omitted]

Latvian Supreme Council Session 27 Jul Carried

Land Reform Discussed

LD2707140390

[Editorial Report] Riga Domestic Service in Latvian at 1157 GMT on 27 July resumes its live relay of the Latvian Supreme Council session in Riga.

The reporter relates the morning sitting at which the Supreme Court and its officials (Gvido Zemribo as chairman) was elected, and further proceedings.

At 1201 GMT, Gorbunovs opens the proceedings; the following speakers continue the debate on the draft law on land reform in rural areas: Simsons (asaying that the communist party was to blame for farmers' misfortunes), Geidans (the parliament's sitting of 22 July 1940 implementing a "just" land reform), Kirsteins (peasants should be given land first, not in the queue after the reserved plots for high Soviet officials, and the 1 million hectares from Pitalovo to Kurzeme fallen into disuse should be distributed first and cultivated again), Raimonds Krumins, Gulbis, Arnitis, Andris Rozentals who is the chairman of the Peasants' Federation (the draft should be adopted in the first reading, the peasants expected it), (?Felts) (he too, as Kirsteins above and at least one previous speaking during this debate, mentions the hectares grown over with bush and fallen into disuse), Agriculture Minister Dainis Gegers (has a number of proposals for the working of the draft concerning allocation of land), Kurdyumov, in Russian (talks about farmers, citizenship, property, and how the law should regulate allocation of land), Dimanis (says an abstract declaration of social justice is out of place, as they all had been victims of injustice).

At 1254 GMT, Dainis Ivans (chairing) sums up by proposing that the two versions of the draft should be published, there is some more discussion on this, some questions and proposals by a number of speakers. There is a version, the more favored one of 26 July (but Article 12 of it, it is suggested, should be excluded).

At 1309 GMT, a count of deputies shows 131 present.

At 1310 GMT, the wording of Article 12 of both versions (of 19 July and 26 July) voted on separately does not receive enough votes for.

At 1311 GMT, a vote on publishing both versions of Article 12 shows 116 for, and it is adopted.

At 1314 GMT, a first reading of the draft law of land reform in rural areas is adopted by 96 votes for (the date of 15 october was mentioned for the second reading).

At 1314 GMT, Endzins reports on the next item on the agenda, amendments to the constitution concerning property rights.

At 1320 GMT, Bisers speaks about the demand of deputies for taking over the publishing house, and liquidation of CINA, and measures of ensuring press freedom. The answer was already in the demand, by establishing a joint stock company. Talks had taken place with editors and communist party officials, so that nobody would have a monopoly of publishing. Work is in hand, and future dates for completing work are 15 August and 1 September.

Concerning CINA and SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA, Bisers tells about an earlier meeting where the Communist Party Central Committee had decided to keep them as communist party organs (before the communist party had split), but government was somehow excluded. Bisers talks about the Independent Communist Party's steps, saying that he knew only about supplying paper. The Independent communist party is organizing an independent newspaper.

At 1331 GMT, the session is adjourned for half-an-hour's break.

Amendments Wording Debated

LD2707151290

[Editorial Report] Riga Domestic Service in Latvian at 1400 GMT on 27 July resumes its live relay of the Latvian Supreme Council session in Riga.

Dainis Ivans, chairing, opens the proceedings, on the amendments to constitution articles on property, inviting any questions to Endzins.

At 1401 GMT, Dimanis has a wording proposal, and Endzins replies about the necessity of including compensation; a question on citizenship, and another question.

At 1404 GMT, Ivans explains about the procedure for this, the second reading's debate.

At 1405 GMT, Endars Repse has some proposals for corrections in readiness for the third reading; another speaker talks about intellectual property's protection (Article 13).

At 1417 GMT, Raimonds Krumins has many proposals (also mentioning that he has had a long talk with Endzins without their being able to convince one another.)

At 1428 GMT, Dainis Ivans thinks that Raimonds Krunmins has been talking about points which had already been rejected in the first reading; and also that it was doubtful whether such second readings could be of interest to radio listeners, they would not understand much unless the items had been published.

At 1429 GMT, among the following speakers Vebers refers to several technical points.

At 1440 GMT, Ivans says that reader Rozenfelds and Plotnieks are still to speak. But there have been other proposals for discountinuing radio relay. Because discussion of details was not of interest.

At 1442 GMT, there is a vote on discontinuing the relay with a majority in favor.

At 1444 GMT, after the reporter's comments, the radio relay is concluded.

Latvian Delegation Scheduled for Moscow 30 Jul

LD2707152890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Today's IZVESTIYA reports that Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Supreme Council, gave an official lunch in honor of Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Surpeme Soviet, who is on vacation in Jurmala. An accord was achieved at the meeting to the effect that as soon as 3 July a Latvian delegation would arrive in Moscow to hold talks on signing a treaty between Russia and Latvia. No preliminary political or economic conditions, the chairman of the Russian parliament noted, will be put forward by the RSFSR.

To a question concerning Russia's interests in signing a treaty with Latvia, Yeltsin answered in the following way: Together we will be sooner able to solve problems than separately. He named economic, social, and cultural problems and issues of interethnic relations among such problems.

Latvians Demarcating Border With Belorussia

LD2807020390 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 0430 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] At Skaune and Vorzova in Kraslava Rayon as well as at the Rosica stream, participants in the Latvian National Independence Movement and the People's Front from Ogre, Sigulda, and Riga have been marking the border of the Republic of Latvia with the Belorussian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]. Using the newest, official approved topographical maps and led by geodesists, they erected 50 boundary-posts in the state colors of the republic.

It must be added that representatives of Belorussia also took part in setting up the posts, and no conflicts arose.

The restorers of the border found some border posts which had marked 50 years ago where the territory of the Republic of Latvia began.

This marking of the boundary will continue because the government of the republic is preparing an order on the borders of the Republic of Latvia.

Possible Moscow-Estonia Talks 'Next Week'

LD2707193390 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Jul 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Moscow is willing to start talks with Estonia on the future status of that republic, REUTER reports quoting the ESTONIAN NEWS AGENCY. According to the REUTER report, a member of the Presidential

Council, Grigoriy Revenko, telephoned the president of Estonia, Arnold Ruutel, and notified him that talks could begin next week.

Estonian Regulations on Economic Council Adopted

90UN2147C Tallinn MOLODEZH ESTONII in Russian 1 Jun 90 p 2

[Regulations "On the Economic Council," adopted by the first congress of people's deputies of all levels and labor collective delegates of the Estonian SSR]

[Text] In accordance with the Regulations on the Interregional Council of People's Deputies and Workers of the Estonian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], the Economic Council functions as an executive organ, exercising operational management and coordinating activity in the implementation of resolutions and programs of economic and social development adopted by the Interregional Council.

1. Structure

The collegium of the Economic Council includes, by job position, the mayors of cities whose soviets are Interregional Council members, the leaders of committees for coordination of activity in various spheres of the economy and social life, and the leaders of enterprises as the Interregional Council may decide.

In the first phase, the Economic Council includes the following committees:

—on directing and coordinating the activity of Union enterprises and organizations directly subordinate to the USSR Council of Ministers;
—on economic development;
—on housing and social construction;
—on resources;
—on ecology and public health;
—on culture, education, and interethnic relations;
—on food products and ties between industry and agriculture;
—on financial and budgetary issues;
—on legality and law and order;
—on consumer goods, trade and services.

Administrative-territorial entities and labor collectives join the Economic Council depending on economic and social advisability.

2. Functions

The Economic Council accomplishes the following main functions:

—exercises practical direction of the implementation of resolutions and programs of socioeconomic development adopted by the Interregional Council of People's Deputies and Workers of the Estonian SSR;

—operates in the interests of the population of the appropriate regions and labor collectives which support the decisions of Union organs and the legal norms of the USSR Constitution;

—renders assistance in resolving matters of changing production lines at enterprises, and takes measures to protect individuals who have temporarily lost their job and require retraining;

—presents proposals to republic and Union departments and to the USSR and republic Councils of Ministers on satisfying the requirements of the economic complex, and ensures fulfillment of mutual obligations;

—resolves matters of cooperation and interaction among enterprises and individual regions which support the aims and principles of the Interregional Council;

—coordinates the activity of organs for the maintenance of state and public order and organs for protection of the rights and interests of USSR citizens in accordance with the USSR Constitution and Estonian SSR Constitution;

—exercises overall direction of the activity of the Interregional Bank.

Legal Bases

The Economic Council bases its activity on legislative and administrative acts of the USSR and Estonian SSR which regulate the coordination of economic and social functions of soviets and enterprises in ensuring the accomplishment of economic programs, taking into account the interests of the workers.

In accordance with the Regulations of the Interregional Council of People's Deputies and Workers of the Estonian SSR, the Economic Council consistently pursues the policies of the USSR president, USSR Congress of People's Deputies, and republic organs directed toward expanding the independence of labor collectives, developing enterprisingness, and protecting the interests of consumers from possible price increases.

The Economic Council will support any initiatives which improve and perfect the economic and social activity of organs of regional government and enterprise administrations, and which further a more rapid surmounting of crisis phenomena in the development of the Estonian SSR economy.

Adopted by the first congress of people's deputies of all levels and labor collective delegates of the Estonian SSR.

RSFSR

Statistics Show Economic Development Slowdown

LD2707130590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The final statistical data for the first six months show a considerable slowing down of the pace of development in many branches of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] national economy. This is what a report by the Republican State Committee for Statistics [Goskomstat] says on the RSFSR's social and economic development in the first six months of 1990. Industrial output has remained practically at the level of the first six months of the previous year. It has declined in the branches of fuel and power engineering, metallurgy, and chemistry and forestry complexes. At the same time structural changes in industry are under way. The output of consumer goods, including the B group, has increased by 6.3 percent over the above period while the volume of the production of means of production has fallen by two percent. In agriculture, 70 percent of state and collective farms have introduced lease contracting, including nearly 12 percent of farms in all the production branches and in those servicing the main production. Over the first six months, the RSFSR national economy received 2.3 billion rubles [R] less in profits than in the same period of last year. Owing to strikes in individual regions, 85,000 man days have been lost. The miners strike of 11 July resulted in losses of 73,000 man days of working time and production worth of R7.4 million. In connection with interethnic conflicts in a number of the country's regions, 150,000 refugees have arrived in the RSFSR, including over 40,000 in Moscow and Moscow Oblast. Over the first six months, 359,000 apartments with a total area of 21.7 million meters have been commissioned through all the sources of financing. Twenty eight percent of the yearly plan for housing construction has been fulfilled. Compared to the similar period of 1989, the volume of industrial production fell by R152 million at the enterprises of Union Ministries and departments over the first six months. By early June 1,183 joint enterprises have been registered in the RSFSR. The report will be published in full in the press.

Further on Economic Statistics

LD2707133590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The State Committee for Statistics of the Russian Federation has summed up the results of the republic's development in the first half of the year. A substantial slowing down of the pace of development is indicated in many sectors.

A few figures from the report. The RSFSR's national income was 1.3 percent down on the same period last year. Retail prices of many consumer goods and services rose. The summary price index stood at about 103 percent. Admittedly, the state prices of most foodstuffs remained unchanged. But in the markets they cost, on the average, 23 percent more than last year. The level of inflation in the consumer sphere amounted to 107 percent.

Growth Seen as 'Sluggish'

LD2707143490 Moscow TASS in English 1403 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow July 27 TASS—The Goskomstat [State Committee for Statistics] statistic board has released statistics that show that the growth rate has been sluggish in many branches of the Russian Federation's economy in the first six months of 1990.

The Goskomstat statement points to reduced output in some industries, including oil and gas extraction, the production of steel, ferrous rolled stock, synthetic rubber, commercial pulp, newsprint, and brick. The national income produced in the Russian Federation was 1.3 per cent lower than last year.

Russian labour resources amounted to 87 million people in the first six months of 1990. Of these, 73.9 million people were employed. The total number of jobs was down by 500,000, as compared with the same period last year, while the number of working people increased somewhat.

The Russian Federation economy, the report says, produced 2.3 billion rubles [R] (four per cent) less in profits during the first six months of 1990 than over the same period last year.

On republican territory, R36.3 billion were deducted from profits and transferred to the state budget, which is R2.7 billion less than during the first half of last year. This loss was made up for by turnover tax money which brought in R36.2 billion—3.2 billion more than during the first half of 1989. More than half of the growth was accounted for by sales of alcoholic drinks.

Individual monetary incomes amounted to R177.4 billion, i.e. 12.7 per cent more than over the same period last year. Income exceeded spending by R7.3 billion in contrast to 6.0 billion in the first half of 1989.

Retail prices for many consumer goods and services went up. The level of inflation in the consumer sector, taking into account spiralling prices for goods and paid services and the growth of unmet demand, was up seven per cent from the previous year.

Labour discipline has worsened. Work stoppages in some regions led to the loss of 85,000 man-days. The miners strike on July 11 cost the country R7.4 million in work-time and products.

Since the beginning of the year, 822,500 crimes have been registered across the republic, up by 14.5 per cent over last year. There were 529 crimes per 100,000 people.

The Russian Federation exported R19 billion worth of goods, or 8.9 per cent less than over the same period last year. The volume of imports went up by seven per cent and reached R22 billion. The foreign trade deficit amounted to R3 billion.

Opposition Ready To Implement Economic Reform

AU2707101190 Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 27-28 Jul 90 p 9

[Report by Bernd Ziesemer: "The Russian Republic Prepares for Solo Action"]

[Text] Moscow, 26 July—The democratic opposition in the Soviet Union sees hardly any possibility for cooperation with the CPSU concerning economic policy. This was stated by Nikolay Travkin, chairman of the newly-founded Democratic Party of Russia, in an interview with HANDELSBLATT and WIRTSCHAFTSWOCHE in Moscow.

Travkin, 44, who left the CPSU in March, is one of Boris Yeltsin's closest comrades-in-arms in the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR). At the same time, he is a deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet and a member of the Coordination Council of the democratic opposition. In the future his party might become the focus of the Soviet Union's market economy policy.

In Travkin's view, the 28th CPSU Congress "has set down an ideology which has led our country into a dead end." According to Travkin, over the past years Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has achieved much, "but his potential as a reformer has been exhausted." Particularly in economic reforms, Gorbachev will not go any further than he has gone so far. The Soviet leader wants to keep the changes within the "narrow circle of socialist ideology." Thus normal market economy conditions cannot develop.

Travkin considers speedy privatization of the Soviet state enterprises as the most important precondition to starting an economic improvement in the Soviet Union. Private property must be protected by law, and the tax system, which is hostile to production, must be changed: "Only in this way can we stimulate the people's readiness for production."

The opposition politician thinks that under present conditions Western loans for the Soviet Union are a waste of money. It is much more important to facilitate foreign investments in the Soviet Union. In this respect, however, the government must not have any illusions: "We are not a superpower but a developing country."

Together with RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin, Travkin wants to implement his economic policy ideas on the territory of the largest Soviet republic, independent of and in spite of Gorbachev. "What amount of power will the Soviet Government still retain," Travkin asks in his frugal office at the Moskva bank, "if the republics declare their sovereignty?" His answer: "Here in Russia we will make our way against the Soviet Government." The RSFSR has already started to conclude contracts with other secessionist Union republics, in particular the Baltic republics. The central government is trying to brake this process but it cannot stop it.

The democratic opposition in the RSFSR has "a maximum of two years" to implement its idea of a radical economic reform, Travkin said. Then at the latest the supply situation must have improved: "We promised radical changes to the people. If we disappoint the people, we will be swept away like the CPSU." This year the supply situation in the RSFSR has to be at least stabilized.

Thus, as an emergency measure, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet allocated $1.2 billion for improving agricultural production. The kolkhoz peasants are given vouchers for coveted consumer goods to stimulate the halting harvest. Travkin accuses Gorbachev of incompetence particularly in this field: It is a scandal that the grain is rotting in the fields because too little gasoline for the combine-harvesters has been delivered.

Armed Armenians Arrested in Krasnodar Kray

LD2707184490 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The decree of the USSR president on prohibiting the creation of armed units not provided for under USSR legislation, and on impounding weapons in illegal possession, has met with the approval of Soviet people. Judging by the telegrams and telephone calls coming into TASS offices from citizens, this decision by the top state official was eagerly awaited, and now every measure must be taken to implement it in the specified time.

Our correspondents have been reporting on the first operations by the law and order bodies to put the president's decree into effect.

Militia staff in Krasnodar Kray have detained two armed criminals, residents of the town of Kirovakan, Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic. Two Makarov pistols with 16 rounds were taken from them. One of the pistols was seized from a militia patrol in Kirovakan a week ago. The origins of the other are being established.

In the evening, the two citizens, of Armenian nationality, stopped the driver of a Zhiguli car acting as a private taxi in the town of Galendzhik, and asked him to take them to the Mikhaylovskiy Pass. On the way, not far from the pass, they pulled out the pistols and pointed them at the driver, telling him to stop. The criminals then let him out of the car and made off. When the militia in the local Internal Affairs Department learned of the incident they immediately went into action, and the criminals were soon detected on the road. A snatch group managed to detain them in such a way that they were unable to use their weapons. One of the attackers is 24 years old, the other 21. Both were arrested.

This is by no means the first time that militia staff have disarmed violent assaulters, murderers, and robbers and impounded weapons in illegal possession. In the course of just one special operation across the country as a whole, 14,500 firearms, 13 kilograms of explosives, and 350,000 items of various ammunition were impounded or voluntary handed in by the public. At present, given the deterioration of interethnic conflicts, quite a lot of weapons have ended up in the hands of extremists: On 26 July in Osh Oblast alone, several firearms were impounded, including one small-bore rifle.

Independent Russian Television, Radio Discussed

LD3007090990 Moscow TASS in English 0647 GMT 30 Jul 90

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Lev Aksyonov]

[Text] Moscow July 30 TASS—Real power presupposes the availability of one's own news organisations. Therefore "our major task now is to implement the Russian parliament decision on the establishment of Russia's own television and radio," Vyacheslav Bragin, people's deputy of Russia, told TASS.

Bragin is secretary of the Russian parliamentary committee for the media, relations with public organisations, mass movements and the study of the public opinion.

"A material basis for the establishment of Russia's own television is now perhaps the most important issue that must be addressed," Bragin said. The composition of a widely-representative conciliation commission has already been determined, he added.

"During talks with the leadership of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, which has held monopoly on telecasting until now, the commission's principal purpose is to raise the question on a practical plane about the separation of power in television and deciding as to what and how should be divided". [sentence as received]

"Three communications satellites should be launched to ensure telecasting at various time zones of Russia. Provision for the necessary funds for that are comtemplated to be made in next year's republican budget.

"Subsequent plans envisage the establishment of a Russian news agency, but we have not yet discussed this question broadly," Bragin added.

The committee also plans to discuss problems concerning a material basis of other news organisations. Members of parliament intend to tackle this matter by drawing foreign capital as well.

A very complex situation has developed in the Soviet Union in the provision of paper which was distributed in a centralised manner before.

"We want to raise the paper issue with all-Union publishing houses, and declare our rights, because forest resources are the property of Russia.

"Apparently we shall have to put pressure. But we are also being pressurised," Bragin said. "One has to state that federal bodies resist our efforts to found Russia's news organisations".

Silayev Says Russia Backs Inter-Regional Ties

LD2807181490 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The Russian government backs the initiative of inter-regional cooperation and believes that the concluding of direct contracts should be speeded up. This was declared by Silayev, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Council of Ministers, at a meeting with (Abulins), president of the Latvian Association for Cooperation between Agriculture, Science, and Industry; and the heads of the executive bodies of the soviets of people's deputies of the Yakut Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, Tyumen oblast, Chelyabinsk oblast, and the town of Vorkuta.

They discussed the possibility of putting into circulation resources additional to standard allocations [sverkhfondovyye resursy] and expnding mutually-advantageous trade and economic links on this basis on the level of individual regions, firms, and associations.

Paper Carries Yeltsin's Appeal on Crop Harvest

PM2907140790 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Jul 90 Second Edition p 1

["Appeal" by B.N. Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet]

[Text] Dear fellow countrymen!

Special circumstances force me to appeal directly to you. You are all perfectly well aware that the food situation in our republic is critical. In order to avoid a catastrophe, we must improve it forthwith. Nature is favoring us this year. A good harvest is ripening almost throughout Russia. It needs to be gathered and stored in a proprietorial fashion and then supplied to Russians' tables.

I am not calling on you to struggle for the harvest. Everyone is tired of such appeals. To make things go better we need to give working people more freedom and autonomy in decisionmaking and to help them with transportation, fuel, and people. The active support of the cities is indispensable. We need to use all forms of economic ties to this end. I believe that everybody will pitch in.

We need bold new approaches in this area. We must abandon all kinds of bans and restrictions hampering our work. Producers can sell all agricultural output produced over and above the level of concluded contracts to any customer at their own discretion—the state, state enterprises and organizations, and also cooperatives and citizens—at contract prices.

Of course, the main thing is that we need good material incentives. In order to encourage farmers, machine operators, stockraisers, transport workers, procurement workers, and everyone who is directly involved in producing, storing, and selling produce, purchase prices will be supplemented by special "Harvest '90" checks entitling the bearer to freely acquire for rubles various goods in extremely short supply transferred to a special market stock by the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] government.

It is important to stress that the checks will be issued in return not just for above-plan output, but for all output sold to the state. Procurement organizations and processing enterprises are given the "Harvest '90" checks as an incentive for the safekeeping of output and its sale to the population and for the reduction of harvest losses.

The government is taking these measures to support peasants and not only to provide fair compensation for their difficult work, but to give them an opportunity to find something to buy with the money they earn.

Farms are also entitled to reach agreement with organizations and persons that provide services for them on additional payment in the form of checks to the providers of services. This will make it possible to give partners an interest in fulfilling orders for the countryside and to ensure better service and timely shipments of everything necessary.

All agricultural workers, including temporary and seasonal workers, will be allowed to use some of their earnings to buy their farms' produce.

In the next few days an RSFSR Council of Ministers resolution will be published providing details.

Dear fellow citizens!

This is just one of the measures in our overall program for overcoming the crisis. Let us stop the rot at least in the sphere of food.

Everything depends on you now. No people have experience of emerging from a crisis as profound and protracted as that brought upon the peoples of Russia as a result of the unscrupulous experiment carried out on our long-suffering land. Local people have a bigger and better view of things than Moscow has. Make use of local potential and the full panoply of power which the soviets have obtained. Seek new forms. Make decisions more boldly for the benefit of our people and the salvation of the harvest.

[Signed] B.N. Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet

Prokofyev Remarks to Moscow Party Aktiv Viewed

PM2907142590 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Jul 90 Second Edition p 2

[TASS correspondent B. Shestakov report: "Becoming the Party's Creative Laboratory"]

[Text] The 28th congress should be judged not by the emotion in the auditorium or the volume of the applause but by the extent to which the adopted decisions were fundamental, and the extent to which delegates were able to catch and express the public mood. This was stressed at a 25 July meeting between the capital's party aktiv and Yu.A. Prokofyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Moscow CPSU City Committee.

The congress, he continued, was a living organism with the contradictory qualities inherent in any living thing. And it is the awakening to new life that typifies the party today. The CPSU has still not adopted vanguard positions on political reform. But the gap in the pace of democratization has been substantially reduced.

The precongress debate in Moscow highlighted many original approaches and defined new factors in party democratization—horizontal structures. Primary links were strengthened and new leaders appeared. This has changed the face of the capital's party organization, made it dynamic and critical, and intensified the desire for action. Having ceased to be the stereotypically "reliable bulwark and combat detachment of the Central Committee," it is becoming a creative laboratory for the entire party.

Touching on the results of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Communist Party Constituent Congress, the leader of the city party organization stated that the forum had carried out the task of organizational unification. Moscow's communists will have to be the catalyst of democratic processes in the Russian Communist Party.

Two tasks will have to be resolved: the consolidation of the party and society. The process of the CPSU's renewal is proceeding painfully and agonizingly. Attacks on it need to be countered with a positive alternative; we need to achieve civic consensus. The key lies in cooperation with all forces standing for democracy and social justice and collaboration with social organizations and mass movements.

In the deteriorating economic situation the CPSU should not avoid elaborating an effective and socially attractive economic policy, nor should the city party organization avoid solving the acute problems of Moscow and its residents. We must expedite the adoption of a law on the capital's status. Supporting the Moscow City Soviet's search for new solutions to the most complex problems and expressing readiness to take part in that search, communists advocate their willingness to cooperate and pool efforts in citizens' interests.

Polozkov on Constituent Congress With Journalists

PM2907141990 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Jul 90 Second Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Meeting With Journalists"]

[Text] Preparations for the second stage of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Communist Party Constituent Congress, the real formation of the party, the main avenues of Russian communists' work, and their specific action program were just some of the issues raised at the 24 July meeting between the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA editorial collective and I.K. Polozkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the RSFSR Communist Party Central Committee. Also taking part in the meeting were members of the coordinating council to prepare for the second phase of the constituent congress, permanent writers for our newspaper, academics, and writers.

The discussion was heated and committed. The Russian communist leader talked about the problems which the party is encountering at the moment, shared his alarm about the economic state of the republic and the country, and expressed the hope that the CPSU's Russian organization will be a reliable defender of working people's social interests. I.K. Polozkov answered numerous questions from journalists.

RSFSR Abolishes River Fleet Ministry

LD2907142190

[Editorial Report] Moscow Maritime Service in Russian at 0615 GMT on 28 July carries a four-minute report noting the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic Ministry of River Fleet has been abolished. It is replaced by the Russian River Fleet Concern (Kontsern Rossiyskogo Rechnogo Flota]).

Vladivostok Closed to Tourists, Others

LD2807002490 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2130 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] At the very height of summer in the maritime kray, deputies of Vladivostok have taken a rather strange decision: to close the town to guests and tourists temporarily until further notice.

The authorities did not find time to accompany this document with well-argued reasoning by specialists; thus, all kinds of stories and rumors about plague and cholera moving in on the city have started up around the town.

A TASS correspondent was told in the maritime kray health and epidemilogy center that the authorities did not have any particular reason to close the town. The situation here now is no worse than it was a year, or several years, ago.

The adoption of this extremly important move was not even coordinated with the kray health service.

Private Farmers Face Obstacles in Omsk Oblast

PM2607135790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Report by V. Morozova and S. Dodonov from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] A meeting between would-be individual farmers and representatives of the Oblast Leaseholders Union and the agro-industrial committee has been held in Omsk.

[Correspondent] [video shows meeting participants engaged in debate] It emerged that in an oblast with a population of two million, only six people can describe themselves as individual farmers. Naturally, there are plenty of people who would like to have a peasant farm, but unfortunately individual farmers so far have few champions and many opponents.

For instance, Sergey Gordiyenko from the "Zavety Ilicha" Kolkhoz in Odesskiy Rayon has been fighting for two years to obtain land deeds from the state. He has left no stone unturned. Outwardly he appears to have support. No one is trying to take away the 26 hectares of land which he was allocated last spring. Gordiyenko is growing vegetables on this land and raising livestock.

But as soon as official recognition of this land as a peasant farm with the right to pass it on to descendants is mentioned, suddenly thousands of reservations crop up. The draft decision on the organization of peasant farms which was discussed at the meeting is to put an end to this.

[O.V. Berg, chairman of the Oblast Leaseholders Union] We all want there to be a real mechanism for obtaining land which is not dependent on the approval of kolkhozes and sovkhozes, so that land can be taken away from them and given to individual farmers. We want provision of resources to be real rather than just on paper. We want specific adminstrations and departments to be responsible for the provision of resources. We want peasant farmers to be able to market their produce either via their own stores or via their own cooperatives.

Gorbachev Following Flood Damage in Siberia

LD2707131490 Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The unusual floods of the Siberian rivers east of Lake Baykal observed this month have abated. Caused by abundant rainfall, the floods have damaged a total of over 2,500 houses. The Army has been helping in rescue work. Hundreds of people have been evacuated from the disaster zones. Special engineering units are restoring the bridges.

Mikhail Gorbachev has been following the situation and talking to the areas on telephone.

New Book on Siberian Economy Published

LD2607115390 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Scientific and consultation center of the association of Siberian cities has conducted extensive work on preparation of the economic-geographic reference book "Cities of Siberia and the Far East." This book was published by "Progress." It contains a great deal of information about the large and small towns in the region and the enterprises and cooperatives as well as their production. Addresses and telephone numbers of the factories and the cities' administrative organs are given. Such information will also be useful for the heads of the enterprises looking for business partners. The economic geographic reference book "Cities of Siberia and the Far East" is the first such publication in the country; it is produced in connection with perestroyka in the system of economic management.

Western Republics

Belorussian Sovereignty Declaration Reported

LD2707170690 Moscow TASS in English 1644 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondents Vladimir Bogdanov and Vladimir Glod]

[Text] Minsk July 27 TASS—After several hours of sharp debate the Belorussian parliament declared the republic a sovereign state today.

From now on, the republic will officially celebrate its independence day on July 27.

Under the declaration no political party, public organisation, or individual can claim the right to speak on behalf of the entire Belorussian people. This right is granted only to the republican parliament.

The document declares the supremacy of the Belorussian Constitution and laws on its territory and the republic's independence in relations with other countries.

Until recently, laws in the republic were enforced by a prosecutor appointed by Moscow. Now this will be done by the republic's prosecutor general appointed by the Belorussian parliament.

The parliament declared that Belorussian land, air space, and other natural resources belong to the Belorusian people. The republic has the right to its share in the Soviet riches, in the gem and hard currency funds, and the Soviet Union's gold supply.

The republic can set up its own armed forces, interior troops, and state and public security bodies subject to the control of its parliament.

Belorussia will aim to become a nuclear free zone and a neutral state, the declaration says.

Belorussian Sovereignty Declaration Broadcast

Preamble

LD2707181290 Minsk Domestic Service in Belorussian 0833 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Preamble to Belorussian Sovereignty Declaration, read by unidentified chairman at a Belorussian Supreme Soviet session held in Minsk—live]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, expressing the will of the people of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, conscious of its responsibility for the future of the Belorussian nation, affirming its respect for the dignity and rights of the peoples of all nationalities resident in the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, [word indistinct] and respect for the sovereign rights of all peoples of the USSR (?and the world) regarding the republic as an independent member of the world community with full rights, acting in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the other universally recognized international legal acts, recognizing the necessity to build a law-based state, solemnly declares the full state sovereignty of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the supremacy of the independence and totality of the state power of the republic within the limits of its territories, the legal validity of its laws, the independence of this republic in external relations, and declares its resolve to create a law-based state.

Article 10

LD2707181190 Minsk Domestic Service in Belorussian 0753 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Article 10 of the Belorussian Sovereignty Declaration, read by unidentified chairman at a Belorussian Supreme Soviet Session held in Minsk—live]

[Text] The Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic has the right to its own armed forces, internal troops, bodies of state and public security under the control of the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. The Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic has the sovereign right (?to decide) the regime and conditions for military service and service in bodies of state and public security, to decide the (?presence) and stationing of troops (?of other countries) on its territory. No military presence of foreign countries or military bases and facilities can be sited on the territory of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic without the consent of its Supreme Soviet. The Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic aims to transform its territory into a nuclear-free zone, and the republic into a neutral state.

Article 11

LD2707180890 Minsk Domestic Service in Belorussian 0718 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Article 11 of the Belorussian Sovereignty Declaration, read by unidentified chairman at a Belorussian Supreme Soviet session held in Minsk—live]

[Text] The Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic independently exercises the right to voluntary unification with other states and free secession from the state Union. The Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic proposes an immediate start on the elaboration of a treaty on a Union of sovereign socialist states.

Belorussia's Shushkevich on Sovereignty Debate

LD2707200890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Today the Belorussian Supreme Soviet adopted a declaration on state sovereignty of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR]. A total of 229 people's deputies voted for this document, no one against; there were no abstentions. Our Minsk correspondent Petr Mokritskiy reports:

[Mokritskiy] Several days of hard work and sharp debates—this is the way the people's deputies are discussing and carrying out an article-by-article adoption of the declaration on state sovereignty. It does not come easily. There are many different opinions, positions, and opposed points of view. The Supreme Soviet commission that was specially formed submitted a draft containing a preamble and twelve articles. This most important document has absorbed many amendments and addendums. Opposition positions were expressed on more than one occasion, but ways for consolidation were always found. When the session came close to adopting an article on concluding a new Union treaty, a group of deputies of the Belorussian People's Front unexpectedly announced that they were leaving the conference hall. The overwhelming majority of deputies did not agree with such an opinion and voted to conclude a new Union treaty. Obstacles that kept on cropping up in the course of further discussion were overcome. The declaration on state sovereignty of the Belorussian SSR has been adopted. Here is an interview with Stanislav Stanislavovich Shushkevic, peoples deputy of Belorussia and deputy chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet:

[Begin recording] [Shushkevich] The very process of discussing and adopting the declaration showed that we want to finish with the hypocrisy that was constantly present in our work throughout all my life. An absolutely unique thing has happened here. The positions of various deputies drew closer and we could formulate what we wanted to be like. We were very much helped by the fact that by then Russia as well as the Ukraine had adopted their declarations. Our work was made easier. We have a number of positions, where we tried to express ourselves in a different way and to assert that we are an independent state. We stated our position. At least, this is my opinion so far.

[Mokritskiy] Stanislav Stanislavovich, my attention was drawn to the article of the declaration which concerns the supremacy of the Belorussian laws and constitution over the Union ones. What does it mean in practice?

[Shuskevich] I would like to draw your attention to those articles in which we formulated positions, as was done in the Ukraine. We realize that the supremacy of Belorussian laws must exist if we are a sovereign republic, but we also realize the need for a transitional period. We even had amendments that proposed that provisions be made for a transitional period. But, in fact, it is invisibly present in this declaration. We realize that we have to transfer from one state into another. In order to achieve this state in a nonviolent way, we must show restraint in some matters. Not everyone has had the nerve and the strength to go this way.

[Mokritskiy] What do you think about the fact that a group of deputies left the hall during the voting for concluding a new Union treaty?

[Shuskevich] I think this is a method of parliamentary struggle. I think it is acceptable. I myself left the hall in the capacity of a USSR people's deputy during the report on the situation in Georgia. I do not try to justify deputies' walk-out today. I think that one has to find courage to fight for one's cause and rights in the conditions that we are living in. The last two days showed that this method is far more efficient that any method of a demonstrative walk-out. [end recording]

27 Jul Belorussian Supreme Soviet Session

'Independence Day' Decided

LD2707173190

[Editorial Report] Minsk Domestic Service in Belorussian at 1030 GMT on 27 July continues its live relay of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet session in Minsk. A debate on a resolution on Chernobyl shows that the document is still at a working stage.

At 1034 GMT, a deputy proposes that in light of the adoption of the declaration of sovereignty, 27 July should be made Independence Day and a national holiday. The motion is put to a vote and adopted by 210 votes to one, with three abstentions.

At 1036 GMT, the chairman of the privileges commission reads out amendments to proposals concerning transport allowances for disabled deputies.

At 1038 GMT, a deputy asks to make a statement objecting to a publication by the newspaper ZVYAZDA on parliamentary work and pointing out inaccuracies in the reporting by quoting extracts.

At 1045 GMT, a deputy from the floor, apparently from the privileges commission, makes an indistinct proposal, and is told to submit it in writing.

At 1047 GMT, another deputy refers to a debate in a few days ago on collective farms, and protests against the way his arguments were distorted.

At 1050 GMT, a proposal is put forward from the floor to amend the composition of the ecological commission. The chairman suggests that it be considered after lunch.

At 1051 GMT, another deputy from the privileges commission raises a procedural issue.

At 1052 GMT, the chairman asks for announcements to be read out. The reporter cuts in to sum up this morning's proceedings. He announces that the house will resume its proceedings at 1600 local time [1300 GMT].

At 1300 GMT, the session resumes after the break: 243 deputies are registered. The agenda will include voting on the proposals of the credentials commission, voting on Deputy Kravchenko, the transfer of deputies to commissions, and a speech on the program of the newly elected government.

At 1302 GMT, the chairman of the credentials commissions, Leonov, takes the floor and reports on secondary voting for people's deputies in seven electoral districts. The deputy elected in Gomel District is approved.

At 1305 GMT, Deputy Kravchenko is released from his duties as deputy in connection with his nomination as foreign minister of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

At 1307 GMT, there are further nominations, to the consumer services commission, along with voting and results. Then there are further nominations to the ecology commission, with voting and results. The same procedure is repeated for nominations to the commission on scientific-technical progress, the commission for energy, transport, and communications, and the commission for eleminating the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

At 1315 GMT, the chairman of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic Council of Ministers takes the floor and begins a report on the program of the new government.

New Government Tasks Viewed

LD2707175690

[Editorial Report] Minsk Domestic Service in Belorussian at 1316 GMT on 27 July continues its live relay of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet session in Minsk. The chairman of the Council of Ministers commends all newly elected ministers and begins a report on the program discussed at yesterday's first session of new Council of Ministers. He outlines tasks facing the government in the light of the newly adopted declaration of sovereignty, particularly in the economic sphere. He notes that preparations are underway for a transfer to a market economy and a new type of decentralized interrepublican relations.

At 1345 GMT, he says that the government is preparing training of cadres in adjusting to the new market economy. Reform of the banking system is essential, and we must create a Belorussian National Bank, he says. A new republican framework is called for to harness financial and material resources in the interests of the republics. More needs to be done to eliminate consequences of Chernobyl accident; more housing is needed. Consumer and health services need radical improvement, he goes on to say. He says that a rebirth of the Belorussian identity—language, culture, history—needs to be accelerated.

At 1405 GMT, the chairman of the Council of Ministers ends with an appeal for support for the government's program from all working people of the republic.

At 1406 GMT, questions and answers on specifics of the speech by the chairman of the Council of Ministers are posed.

At 1420 GMT, deputies are called in order and reminded that there is still a list of deputies wishing to speak on other matters. The new governmental program is approved, and the composition of the Council of Ministers is confirmed [no details].

At 1430 GMT, a list of deputies requesting to speak is read. A deputy praises the work of the Supreme Soviet and its increasing political maturity. A People's Front deputy reads a statement by opposition deputies calling for stronger moves on sovereignty, accusing the government of conducting politics of stagnation. Criticism of lack of economic progress is voiced by another deputy.

At 1455 GMT, an announcer sums up today's proceedings, and says that the session will continue and probably concludes tomorrow.

Belorussian Chairman on Government's Program

LD2807184990 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 28 Jul 900

[Text] At the first session of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet of the new convocation, following the adoption of a declaration on the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic's state sovereignty, people's deputies have examined a program for the work of the republic's newly formed government. It was set out in a report at the session of the republican parliament by Vyacheslav Frantisevich Kebich, chairman of the Belorussian Council of Ministers. Our correspondent Petr Makritskiy spoke with him following the session.

[Begin recording] [Makritskiy] Vyachevlsav Frantsevich, [what is] your overall assessment of the deputies's work which has lasted more than two months—have you succeeded in forming the cabinet which is needed today, both by the republic and by everyone?

[Kebich] Certainly. It includes younger people, professionals in their fields, and I think that we now need to get down to work as quickly as possible, because time has been wasted and we need to work on concluding inter-republican contractual commitments on mutual supplies of output to one another on equal terms.

[Makritskiy] But of course, the main subject of our interview is the government's program. What do you see as the main point here, well, at any rate, the main area of work?

[Kebich] The main thing is, primarily, Chernobyl. The second thing: stabilizing the economic situation in the republic so that we can then proceed to further development. Third: saturating the consumer market with all essential goods; and fourth, the spiritual regeneration of the Belorussian nation.

[Makritskiy] The deputies, and I too, would like to ask you: How can the economy be lifted from its state of crisis? Perhaps you are right that, it is said that there is no abyss, but the difficulties and complexities in the economy are considerable.

[Kebich] Certainly. We are not on an uninhabited island; we are part of the Soviet Union, and all of those negative processes which are occurring in the Soviet Union also affect us. I think that the people are sensible, they understand that we must not slide any further. We have to stop, look around, collect ourselves, and in the final analysis take the decisive measures which are essential for us to begin to improve and not worsen the economy.

[Makritskiy] And one of these measures—it is necessary to think about the forthcoming transfer of the economy to market relations.

[Kebich] Certainly. In my program statement for our government today more than 50 percent was devoted precisely to specific steps for introducing a market economy.

[Makritskiy] What is envisioned in terms of paramount measures in this regard?

[Kebich] First and foremost, removing from the state ambit the currently existing monopolist formations, so to speak, introducing various forms of ownership—in general, everything that the Union government is actually proposing. Perhaps I cannot say anything new here, only that we have already elaborated specific measures, or a specific program, concerning how this has to be done before the end of 1990.

[Makritskiy] Well, and this question, a particular one perhaps: will Belorussia have its own currency?

[Kebich] I will make an official statement on this. If the inflationary process which is currently gaining ever greater circulation is not halted in the Union as a whole, we see no alternative to introducing our own currency. [end recording]

Belorussian Supreme Soviet Debates Registration

LD2807184190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The first session of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet of the new convocation has discussed most of the issues on its agenda. [passage omitted] Today the people's deputies introduced a whole series of supplements and alterations to some of Belorussia's legislative acts and the criminal and legal codes. They adopted a decision on the abolition of state acceptance from 1 September this year.

A fierce debate broke out at today's session when discussion of the issue of public associations and organizations started. Some deputies proposed the registration of the Belorussian Popular Front at this session, while others proposed asking the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet or the Council of Ministers of the republic to examine the question. But after voting, including voting by show of hands, neither proposal received majority support. The people's deputies did not achieve agreement on this question.

A break in the session until 31 July was announced.

TV Coverage of Belorussian Soviet Dropped

PM3007095990 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jul 90 Second Edition p 1

[Correspondent Colonel A. Smolyanko report under the rubric "Direct Line": "Debate Dragging On"]

[Text] Minsk—For several weeks now sessions of the Belorussian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet have been relayed over radio and television every day, but on 23 July the republic's population was deprived of the opportunity to follow what was happening in the sessions hall. This occurred right after it was announced that N. Dementey was resuming the chair. He had returned from Moscow, where he had been participating in the work of the Presidential Council and the Federation Council.

No explanation was given for that measure. It is true that journalists were allowed to remain in the hall.

On the agenda is the question of forming the government, one-third of which has not yet been approved. But V. Kebich, chairman of the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers, declared that he was refusing to present new candidates (prior to this seven candidacies for ministerial posts had been "rejected"), because approximately 100 deputies were absent from the hall. The prime minister's position was supported by a majority. However, the Supreme Soviet's work did continue on that day. A number of documents were adopted. They include changes to Article 16 of the Marriage and Family Code. In a number of instances local soviets may now lower the age qualification for contracting marriage.

The Supreme Soviet also adopted a decision to publish NARODNAYA GAZETA ["people's newspaper"], its own official press organ. Provision was also made for the journal DEPUTATSKAYA TRIBUNA ["deputies' tribune"].

Belorussia Should Seek UN Chernobyl Aid

90UN2412A Minsk SEVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 20 Jul 90 p 4

[Report by SELSKAYA ZHIZN correspondent V. Legankov: "Should Belorussia Apply to the Court?"]

[Text] Minsk—At a session of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet P.K. Kravchenko, a candidate for the post of Belorussian SSR minister of foreign affairs, suggested that Belorussia apply to the United Nations International Court in The Hague for compensation for damages from the Chernobyl catastrophe. In the opinion of the candidate minister, because of this national tragedy the republic should also freeze its annual contributions to the International Atomic Energy Agency. In this speech he relied especially on the independent development of international ties with the sovereign Belorussia as a founder and member of the UN.

In a secret election with 226 votes to 12 with eight abstentions P.K. Kravchenko was appointed to this post. It turns out that his program attracted the deputies of the republic parliament.

Moldavan Supreme Soviet on Environment, Autonomy

LD2807174290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The session of the Supreme Soviet of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] ended today. The deputies adopted a decision on the creation of a department for environmental protection and rational use of natural resources, and ratified the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948. They also ratified several USSR laws and restored the historic names of a number of Moldavan settlements.

Late yesterday evening the deputies finished debating the issue of setting up a Gagauz autonomous entity within the republic. The standing commissions of the Supreme Soviet agreed that there are serious socioeconomic problems in areas with large Gagauz populations, but concluded that there is no need to create an autonomous Gagauz formation. The joint decision by the commissions, which is what the parliament voted for, boils down to granting cultural autonomy and recommending that the large Gagauz populations should be taken into account in the new territorial-administrative division of the republic—meaning by this the switch from small rayons to districts [uyezdy].

Consideration was also given to an alternative draft submitted by the (Budzhak) group of deputies stipulating the creation of a Gagauz Autonomous Republic within the Moldavan SSR. Only one in five of the deputies present at the session voted for it, however.

Law Passed on Ratification of USSR Laws

LD2707205890 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Jul 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today at a session of the Supreme Soviet of the Moldavia Republic, a law was passed on ratification of USSR legislative acts on the territory of Moldavia. In accordance with this, all USSR laws and other juridical acts by bodies of state authority or government, as well as decrees from the USSR president, are valid on the territory of the republic only after they have been ratified by the Moldavian parliament.

Deputies also began discussing questions by USSR and Moldavian people's deputies on the creation of autonomy for the Gagauz people.

Moldavia Adopts Decree on State Power

LD2707161990 Moscow TASS in English 1603 GMT 27 Jul 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Taky]

[Text] Kishinev July 27 TASS—The Moldavian Supreme Soviet today adopted a decree on state authority which proclaims in compliance with the republican Constitution and a recent declaration of sovereignty that "all power in Moldavia belongs to the people".

The decree also says that "the people exercise state authority directly and through representative bodies". The Moldavian parliament is the supreme body of state authority and the only exponent of the people's will.

Local councils possess full state authority on their territories and exercise their powers within jurisdiction granted to them by Moldavian laws.

The document says that bodies of state authority ensure equal rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens, enterprises, organisations and establishments if their activities do not run counter to the republican Constitution.

However, no political party, public organisation, a group of citizens or individual "has the right to form alternative bodies of authority, may make decisions instead of people and to interfere in the operations of bodies of state authority, enterprise, establishments and organisations". [sentence as received]

The decree provides for depoliticising all government services and the economy.

The preparation of the bill on state authority in the republic will be based on this document.

Krivosheyev Rejects Concept of Republican Armies

LD2807165690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] As you know, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet has passed a declaration on the republic's state sovreignty. It says, among other things, that the Ukraine has the right to its own armed forces. Colonel General Krivosheyev, deputy head of the country's Armed Forces General Staff comments on this in the paper [IZVESTIYA]. He reacts negatively to the idea of republican armies, because he considers that the defense of the country should not be divided among the national republics.

Here is the opinion of Pavlycheko, USSR people's deputy from the Ukraine: The creation of national armies, including a Ukrainian one, is part of the normal, natural process of achieving the genuine autonomy of the republic. This question comes into the exclusive competence of the Ukrainian parliament.

Ukrainian Soviets Body Holds Constituent Meeting

LD2807214490 Kiev International Service in English 2000 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Today a constituent conference of the Association of Democratic Soviets of People's Deputies of the Ukraine was held in the town of Dneprodzerzhinsk in Dnepropetrovsk region. Taking part were representatives from 39 cities, that is altogether 140 people's deputies of all levels.

In his interview for Radio Kiev, Chairman of the organizational committee of the constituent conference of the Association of Democratic Soviets of the Ukraine (Vyacheslav Koval), said that the association is not being set up as a political party. It is supposed to help the deputies influence the decisions of the Soviets, including the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine, which is very conservative now. We are going to use political means only in our activities, said (Vyacheslav Koval).

In the evening the conference participants met with the residents of Dneprodzerzhinsk. They appealed to the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine to accelerate the elaboration of the new laws which would further enhance the declaration on the Ukraine's sovereignty.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Confirmed

LD2807211490 Moscow World Service in Russian 0930 GMT 28 Jul 90

[From the "Soviet Chronicle" feature of the "Soviet Union Day by Day" program; attributed to INTERFAX]

[Text] The formation of the republic's government is continuing at the session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. (Anatoliy Zlenko) has been confirmed in the post of the Ukraine's foreign minister. He previously worked as the republic's first deputy foreign minister.

As the main point in his program, (Zlenko) identified the return to the European Community of nations and the return to the Ukraine of its status as a sovereign state.

Ukraine KGB Chairman, Other Positions Approved

LD2807022790 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Deputies continued formation of the republican government. First on today's list was the nominee to the post of finance minister of the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]—Ivan Zabrodin. He acquainted deputies with his program for stabilizing the financial system in the republic and replied to deputies' questions. [passage omitted]

Ivan Zabrodin was not approved for the post of minister.

After that the floor was given to the next nominee—Anatoliy Minchenko. He was recommended for the post of chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Committee on Material-Technical Supply. [passage omitted]

Anatoliy Minchenko was approved by a majority of votes for the post of chairman of the Ukraine's State Committee on Material-Technical Supply.

Then deputies confirmed Vitaliy Sklyarov as minister of power and electrification of the Ukraine. [passage omitted]

After a brief 30-minute interval, deputies continued discussing candidatures for the posts of ministers and chairmen of state committees of the Ukrainian SSR. In particular, Mykola Holushko was recommended for the post of chairman of the Committee for State Security. He was born in 1937 in Kazakhstan, has tertiary education in law and has been working since 1963 in the organs of state security. He outlined his thoughts and position on the further reconstruction of the organs of republican state security. Mykola Holushko noted that the officials of the republic's KGB support the declaration adopted on the Ukraine's sovereignty—this is both the basis and foundation of the formation of independent statehood.

Holushko also touched in his speech upon the question of rehabilitation of those illegally convicted under the Stalinist regime. To date, he pointed out, 477,000 innocent victims have already been rehabilitated; another 185,000 cases remain to be examined, most of which date from the war and post-war period. Concluding his speech, Mykola Holushko noted that he and his colleagues are in favor of the open law on the committee for state security so that Soviet people may know which of their rights are defended and protected.

Mykola Holushko was confirmed in the post of chairman of the Committee for State Security of the Ukrainian SSR.

A decision was also adopted on appointing Mykola (?Borysenko) as chairman of the State Committee for Statistics. [passage omitted]

Uzhgorod Resurrects Heraldic Flag

90UN2329B Moscow TRUD in Russian 10 Jul 90 p 4

[Interview with B. Slivka, first deputy chairman of the Uzhgorod City Executive Committee, by G. Klyucherov; date and place not given: "The Ancient Flag of Uzhgorod"—first paragraph is TRUD introduction]

[Text] A new flag colored blue and gold has appeared over the building of the Uzhgorod City Soviet in Transcarpathia. It was hoisted in entirely official fashion following an appropriate resolution of the deputies of the city soviet. Here is what B. Slivka, first deputy chairman of the Uzhgorod City Executive Committee, had to say.

[Slivka] They are saying a new flag has appeared, as it were. In fact, it is quite old—more than 400 years old. We have simply resurrected our ancient heraldry. The golden outline of the emblem of our city appears against a blue background, with a grapevine with three gold leaves and two gold clusters—this is our ancient symbology.

By decision of a session of the city soviet, these flags may be raised above buildings and on the premises of state organs and social organizations, as well as on the road into Uzhgorod.

[Klyucherov] It is true also that you have established your own anthem?

[Slivka] Yes. During ceremonies and on occasion of public political functions of one kind or another, our local anthem will be heard after the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] anthem. It is called "Ruthenians of Carpathia" (words by A. Dukhnovich, music by S. Fentsik).

[Klyucherov] Tell us, Boris Yulyevich, how does the population feel about such innovations?

[Slivka] There is a broad spectrum of opinion—from fervent approval to complete rejection. And this is understandable—not all people think alike today.

Caucasus

Reportage on Rail Blockade at Samtredia, Georgia

Ministry Halts Rail Freight

LD2807090290

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0705 GMT on 28 July carries a three-minute report in the "Panorama" program by correspondent Anatoliy Goldin on a telephone conference at the USSR Ministry of Railways.

Goldin notes that such conferences are a regular event, designed to round up each month's performance on the railways nationwide, and gives some figures on this. He then adds: "Here is one more alarming piece of news which I think economic managers should know. The railways ministry has today been forced to impose a ban on the dispatch of freight to Georgia. The telexes will tap that message out from Moscow to all the country's stations in literally a few minutes. I think the cause is well known: the situation in Samtredia, with people on the tracks. Members of informal groups have practically blocked the railway line from the station at Veseloye [between Sochi and Sukhumi, on the Krasnodar-Georgia border along the line approaching Samtredia from west] to that at Samtredia, a major transport junction there. Over 30 passenger trains have been stopped, in which there are hundreds of passengers who have virtually become hostages of the situation. It has been announced at all stations in Moscow and other cities that trains are running only as far as Adler [station immediately west of Veseloye]. Besides this, railwaymen have been forced to give up over 100 freight and passenger trains. That is the information at this moment."

Goldin then introduces a man identified as Grigoriy Bogdanovich Davydov, first deputy chief of the main directorate for transportation, who adds: "At 1200 on the 26th of this month the lines were cut off at the station of Samtredia by members of informal groups, who blocked completely the possibility of moving trains. Movement of trains has been stopped completely today on the whole main line heading to the Black Sea resorts and on the route heading for the Transcaucasus. The number of trains given up is already up to 200: that is on the North Caucasus, Azerbaijan, and Transcaucasus railways. There are already around 30 passenger trains standing idle at all stations on the approaches to here, the region of the Transcaucasus, including stations of the Transcaucasus railway.

"Last night members of informal groups got into the signal box at the station of Samtredia, the Samtredia section, threw out the controllers and forbade them to control rail traffic. In connection with the fact that a large number of carriages have already accumulated, we have today been obliged to announce throughout the network a stop to the loading of all freight in this direction.

"Help is being given on the spot to passengers. Food has been organized, as has their tranfer by bus. A significant proportion of the trains which run in the direction of Veseloye have been diverted via Baku. The situation is so complex that traffic from Armavir [junction north of Adler] to Adler on the North Caucasus railway is also already paralyzed today."

The remainder of the report is devoted to general problems on Soviet railways and does not return to the Georgian problem.

Georgians Threaten Force

PM2807173390 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 29 Jul 90 p 4

[Own correspondent N. Kvizhinadze report under the rubric "Emergency Situation": "Pickets on the Track"]

[Text] Tbilisi—Rail traffic at Samtredia Station has been halted. Members of informal sociopolitical organizations calling for the immediate convening of an extraordinary Georgian Supreme Soviet session and the adoption of a new law on democratic elections are staging a sit-down protest on the track. The track blockade has resulted in more than 30 passenger trains carrying 18,000 passengers—including several thousand children—and 40 freight trains carrying 6,500 tonnes of wheat, 5,000 tonnes of sugar, butter, and meat, and 4,000 tonnes of gasoline being brought to a halt.

The Georgian government has called on the pickets not to exacerbate the already complex socioeconomic situation in the republic and to listen to reason. All the more so as a draft amendment to the existing law on elections has already been drawn up.

Sh. Gorgodze, Georgian minister of internal affairs, said in an interview with your RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA correspondent that an active dialogue is now being conducted with the pickets, and, if it does not produce any results, the law-enforcement organs will be compelled to use force to uphold the law.

Action Urged To Resume Traffic

LD2907101290

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0855 GMT on 29 July carries a seven-minute report on the railway blockade at Samtredia, Georgia. Announcer S. Amelchenko quotes the latest figures from the Ministry of Railways, noting 30 trains carrying 25,000 passengers are now stranded on their way to or from Georgia. Amelchenko says member of informal groups are blocking the line until the Georgian Supreme Soviet legalizes multiparty elections in the republic.

G.V.Davydov, first deputy head of the Main Traffic Directorate of the Ministry of Railways, is interviewed on today's emergency collegium meeting in the ministry. He says there is still no traffic along the affected line. Together with measures to minimize disruption in adjacent areas, the collegium decided to appeal to the leadership of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Georgian People's Front, and to all public organizations in the republic to take immediate measures to restore rail traffic. An appeal is also to be made to the Caucasian railworkers to do everything in their power. "The collegium has appealed to Comrade Bakatin, minister of internal affairs [of the USSR], and to Comrade Kryuchkov, chairman of the USSR State Security Committee, to help railwaymen in cutting short the illegal actions of those who have paralyzed rail traffic. It was decided to appeal to the country's leadership...to ask the leadership to give exhaustive instructions on this matter to the law enforcement bodies," Davydor said.

The ministry is planning to evacuate the passengers, Davydov said. He continues, "Measures have been planned to give immediate aid to the stranded passengers, to get them to their destinations as soon as possible, by bus and by sea. An agreement has been reached with the civil aviation minister, Comrade Panyukov, on transporting by air approximately 700 passengers from three of the trains. Given the distressing situation for the passengers, these flights wil be financed by the Ministry of Railways. This concerns the passengers traveling to Yerevan from Adler." Davydov continues, "In the country the extremists have recently been targeting the country's nerve, its main artery, rail transport. How long can we put up with this? As a citizen of our country I cannot understand why...where are our forces, where are the capabilities we have always possessed? Why are we displaying such helplessness in ensuring that nobody touches this vital route which keeps us alive, which feeds us, creates everything we have and maintains the economy? So, I think the law must be enforced. The criminal elements encroaching upon the normal lives of our people by paralysing traffic must be duly rebuffed. I think...this silence, this calm contemplation of all that is happening is incomprehensible."

Georgians Want Blockade Ended

PM2907180190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jul 90 First Edition p 3

[Own correspondent G. Lebanidze report under the "Emergency" rubric: "Not Complicating the Situation"]

[Text] Georgian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]—Crowds of people have been blocking the track at the Samtredia main rail junction on the Transcaucasian Railroad. As a result more than 100 trains have been standing idle on Georgian territory for some days now. As of 27 July 31 passenger trains carrying 18,000 passengers, including children, had been brought to a halt. Ninety freight trains carrying wheat, butter, sugar, meat, and gasoline have been brought to a halt.

What is the reason for this? The demand by a number of parties and social organizations to convene an extraordinary session of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet to adopt a law on genuinely democratic multiparty elections to the republic's Supreme Soviet.

Meanwhile work continues at the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on improving the legislation on elections with the participation of different sociopolitical organizations and movements. It was noted that normal conditions ruling out the forcing of events or outside pressure, and a calm atmosphere will be needed in order to stage the forthcoming session of the republic's Supreme Soviet scheduled for 17 August.

N. Chitanava, chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers, appeared on television here and noted, in particular, that the Georgian government has repeatedly stated in the past and states now that it is prepared to examine and resolve any problem—however acute—taking account of the opinion of the general public and all political organizations and movements on the basis of the interests of all the people. With this cooperation the republic's Supreme Soviet has resolved many problems in the recent period. "We consider the aforesaid forms of protest to be all the more incomprehensible and unacceptable." The chairman of the Council of Ministers went on to note that this action is destabilizing the situation, placing a heavy burden on the republic's socioeconomic life, and exacerbating its crisis.

An appeal to Georgia's sociopolitical organizations from G. Gumbaridze, chairman of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, has been published too. It expresses alarm that, against the backdrop of an already acute sociopolitical situation, a clear trend has emerged toward sharply complicating and destabilizing the situation. Confrontation has reached a dangerous point; strong-arm confrontation is not ruled out, and this could lead to anarchy, chaos, and severe, unpredictable consequences. The appeal stresses that we need to display the utmost political circumspection and responsibility and to unswervingly observe existing laws so as under no circumstances to allow the situation to deteriorate further or to permit the emergence of a threat to civic peace. We must do everything to consolidate healthy national forces and to implement the goals of Georgian national and state development.

Ministry Appeals for End

LD2907195290 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Jul 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The railway blockade at Samtredia station is continuing. A group of Georgians belonging to informal groups is continuing to hold up freight and passenger trains. Up to the present time, about 200 trains have accumulated at the station, more than 500,000 tonnes of freight have not been dispatched, and 25,000 passengers cannot reach their destinations. Today the collegium of the USSR Ministry of Railways decided to appeal to the government of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Georgian People's Front, and all public organizations to restore traffic. The collegium also appealed to Internal Affairs Minister Bakatin and the USSR KGB Chairman Kryuchkov to help railway staff curtail illegal acts by those who have paralyzed railway transport.

In parallel with this, railway staff are managing to dispatch trains toward Tbilisi and further by a circuitous route via Baku; about 700 passengers from three passenger trains travelling toward Yerevan will be carried by air at the expense of the USSR Ministry of Railways. Well, it would seem that the problem with the passengers is being sorted out, but the main questions remain: Why is it so easy in this country to seek with impunity a solution to political demands by violent means? And finally: How long will the country's law, uniform for all of its citizens, remain inoperative?

'Extremists' Continue Blockade

LD3007113790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0830 GMT 30 Jul 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Vladimir Stefanov] Unfortunately, the blockade of the railway line at Samtredia station in Georgia by members of unofficial organizations is continuing. You already know about this unpleasant incident. The blockade began on 26 July. Since then about 200 trains have been held up. About 500,000 tonnes of freight are also at a standstill. You will now receive the latest information about this incident from Georgiy Vaganovich Davydov, first deputy head of the main traffic directorate of the Ministry of Railways. I hope that Georgiy Vaganovich is on the line. Hello?

[Davydov] Yes.

[Stefanov] One moment please. I'm sorry for the delay. I hope that we can make contact now. One moment please. Hello, hello, hello.

[Davydov] Hello.

[Stefanov] Georgiy Vaganovich?

[Davydov] Yes?

[Stefanov] You are on the air now. Good day.

[Davydov] Good day.

[Stefanov] What is the situation at present on the Georgian railway?

[Davydov] The situation has not changed. The trains are not moving. Movement of trains is still cut. This affects over 200 freight trains, carrying more than 500,000 tonnes of goods for the national economy, and they are worth something like 180 million rubles. These trains are at a standstill, wasting their time. The products aboard them have, to all intents and purposes, been taken out of circulation.

[Stefanov] Removed from the national economy. Georgiy Vaganovich, what is the situation regarding the passenger trains that are at a standstill?

[Davydov] What I was going to say was that the failure to take speedy steps at the outset to bring the activities of the extremists to an end is now beginning to complicate the work at the Tbilisi junction. Attempts are also being made to halt traffic through the sole remaining access point to Georgia from Azerbaijan. As far as the detained passenger trains are concerned...

[Stefanov] Yes?

[Davydov] Most of the 30 that we told you about have been evacuated. About 2,000 of the 25,000 passengers who were originally stranded on their journeys are still stranded. At the moment, 12 passenger trains are still stranded on the Transcaucasus railway. The additional flight from Adler to Yerevan, which you were told about yesterday, by the Ministry of Civil Aviation started last night at the request of the Railways Ministry. Additional flights will leave shortly.

[Stefanov] Georgiy Vaganovich?

[Davydov] Yes?

[Stefanov] Excuse me. One more question. What advice would you give to those passengers now planning to set out in that direction?

[Davydov] Well, trains are still running to Adler. That traffic is continuing normally. But permit me to say a few words about this.

[Stefanov] Yes, go ahead please.

[Davydov] Fine. The passengers cannot travel. The passengers are held up and so on. I would like to say the following on the air. It is absolutely incomprehensible why all these things that are going on before our eyes are treated with such indifference. Why is it that the people who are supposed to enforce law and order in the country are not intervening and not taking appropriate measures, even though they know that the movement of trains has been interrupted for more than 100 hours now? This is absolutely incomprehensible.

[Stefanov] Yes. Well, I hope that the competent organs, so to speak, and, in general, the organizations on whom the solution of this problem depends will take steps in the very near future. Thank you very much for your information. All the best. Goodbye.

[Davydov] Goodbye.

Anti-Army Hostilities Reported in Georgia

90UM0767A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jul 90 p 3

[Article by Major A. Budnikov: "From Tbilisi—Officers Club Under Siege"]

[Text] Since 18 July the district officers club in Tbilisi has found itself besieged by picketers and mass meetings. The standards have been torn off the doors and the red flag has been torn down from the pediment. From morning to night an angry crowd demands that the officers club be turned over immediately. Threats and appeals for violence have been heard. The organizer of this "expression of popular will" was the Party of National Independence of Georgia headed by a certain D. Yashvili.

Lately passions in the republic concerning the Army have reached the boiling point. Fuel was added to the fire by the Law on Alternative (Labor) Service adopted at the end of June at a special session of the Georgian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet. Alarming reports are being received from the units about desertions by servicemen of Georgian nationality.

Next Armenian Elections Scheduled for 29 Jul

NC2807083190 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0500 GMT 28 Jul 90

[From the review of KHORHRDAYIN HAYASTAN]

[Text] The republic's Supreme Soviet advises voters that the repeat elections for people's deputies of the republic will take place on 29 July in a number of okrugs. The paper has published a list of these okrugs.

Decree on Limiting Militias Draws Responses

Armenian Supreme Soviet Reacts

LD2707194790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Jul 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The Armenian Supreme Soviet session continues in Yerevan. Today's session of the parliament was held behind closed doors. Reports on the situation in the republic's rayons adjacent to Azerbaijan and in Nagorno-Karabakh were delivered by the minister of internal affairs and the chairman of the Committee of State Security.

As you know, an interim commission for operative control of the situation in Armenia was set up yesterday. Its membership comprises 18 deputies, including the first secretary of the Communist Party of Armenia, Vladimir Movsesyan. Our correspondent interviewed the chairman of that commission:

[Begin recording] [Khachatryan] The presidential decree must—and I think this is already being done—lead us to the thought that we must do everything constructively and fast, but not in haste, so that all is legal and legitimate and so that the neighboring peoples also know that we are setting up military formations not as a factor of aggressivity but as a factor of deterrence. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The deputies again devoted their afternoon and evening sessions to point-by-point discussion of the interim rules of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic. Tomorrow the parliament of the republic will continue its work.

Commander Welcomes Decree

LD2707150190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1345 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] According to what the TASS correspondent learned at the main directorate of the internal troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, after the USSR presidential decree on banning the creation of armed formations which are not stipulated by USSR legislation and on confiscating illegally kept weapons, relative calm has set in in regions with complex ongoing situation. Thus, reports from Armenia say that no incidents connected with weapons seizure or hostage taking have been registered. Work among the population aimed at clarifying the requests of the presidential decree is being conducted in regions with a complex ongoing situation.

The headquarters of internal troops is carrying out a thorough preparation for successfully fulfilling the tasks that the decree sets the troops. They are supposed to be used in disarming illegal formations only if the efforts of local authorities and law-enforcement bodies fail to yield the desired result. Depending on the situation, it is not excluded that a state of emergency may be introduced, something that will make it possible to engage the internal troops and units of the Soviet army for protecting the population's security and state interests.

In connection with the appearance of the presidential decree, Major General (Safonov), who has been heading the commandant's office of the emergency situation region of Nagorno-Karabakh for a long time, has given his opinion of the decree. Vladislav Nikolayevich said, that he views the presidential decree with satisfaction and sees in it several favorable points for troops. In particular, Maj. Gen. Safonov said, this document makes it possible to act boldly, without hestitation. Earlier, one had to give clarifications of each step one took. The decree permits us not to wait until someone shoots at us. If there are people who do not comply with its requests and do not part with weapons, we will deal with them in the most resolute way, too. Those detained with weapons will not be released, as used to be the case, but we will hand them over to law-enforcement bodies for instituting criminal proceedings.

Armenian Guerrillas Refuse To Hand Over Arms

LD2707191190 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Jul 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The Armenian guerrillas of the so-called National Army refuse to obey the decree of the USSR president on handing over arms. This was stated from Yerevan in a telephone interview with the Reuter agency by Razmik Vasilyan, a leader of one of the guerilla groups. He noted, however, that his men are ready to sit at the negotiating table with representatives of the central authorities in order to defuse the tension in the republic and region.

Armenian Army Called To Play Role in NKAO

NC2807113590 Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 27 Jul 90

[From the republican press review]

[Text] GRAKAN TERT reports that Grant Aleksanyan, a member of Stepanakert Writers and Journalists Union, has sent an open letter to Vladimir Vardanyan, deputy commander in chief of the Armenian National Army.

The letter says: Mr. Vardanyan, I deeply respect your endeavors under difficult conditions, and I am sure you are aware of the situation in Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast—NKAO]. The power politics against NKAO is assuming new harsh forms and manifestations. The warning issued by Mutalibov, first secretary of Azerbaijan Communist Party, sounds like an ultimatum. Mutalibov said: We will be forced to apply the armed force of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Yet Moscow did not ask who has given them those arms. We are all aware of the source that feeds such aggressive statements. I believe it is urgent that a National Liberation Front for NKAO be created in conformity with the law, and that it should take control of the situation in the oblast. How this could be done under the conditions of the state of emergency is a tough problem, but it is possible if we will it. Do you not think that the Armenian National Army has an indispensable role to play in this regard? Only our own power can save us. Let us postpone all our disputes. No matter how confusing the situation is in the republic your mission is to defend of the people.

Azerbaijan Communists Conclude 32d Congress

LD2807025490 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Jul 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] In Baku, the 32d Azerbaijan Communist Party Congress has resumed its work.

The break, due to the work of the 28th CPSU Congress, enabled Azerbaijan's communists to define their position specifically in relation to the main problems concerned with sociopolitical and spiritual life, and to elaborate a program of further activity. A report on the outcome of the 28th CPSU Congress and urgent tasks for the republic's party organization was delivered at the congress by the republic's President Ayaz Niyazovich Mutalibov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee.

Delegates called on all political parties and public organizations and movements to engage in constructive dialogue and cooperation in the name of rebirth and national development and the building of a law-based state on the land of Azerbaijan.

In conclusion, the congress noted the enduring importance for the defense of the republic's sovereignty of the decree from the country's president Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev banning the creation of armed formations not provided for in USSR legislation and for confiscation of weapons where they are being illegally held.

The forum of Azerbaijan's communists finished its work today.

Congress' Discussions Viewed

PM3007091590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jul 90 Second Edition p 2

[AZERINFORM-TASS report: "Azerbaijan Communist Party Congress"]

[Text] Baku, 27 Jul—The 32d Azerbaijan Communist Party Congress resumed here today after a recess.

The report by A.N. Mutalibov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee "On the Results of the 28th CPSU Congress and the Urgent Tasks for the Republic's Party Organization" and the other speeches noted that one of the most important elements in CPSU democratization is the autonomy of republic communist parties. The proposal was made that there should be a return to the former name of "Azerbaijani Communist Party," which in the opinion of the delegates, reflects the national republic nature of its formation rather than just its administrative and territorial nature. While recognizing the CPSU Program and Statutes, it will operate on the basis of its own program and statute documents determining its status.

The congress stressed that the USSR president's decree "On Banning the Creation of Armed Formations Not Envisaged by USSR Legislation and Confiscating Weapons in the Event of Their Illegal Stockpilinge" is a good foundation for putting a stop to militarization in the country and for solving the problems of interethnic conflict in the Transcaucasus.

Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet To Convene 30 Jul

NC3007093890 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1730 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] To the attention of the deputies of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet:

The 14th session of the 11th convocation of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet will be held in the meeting hall of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet at 1500 on 30 July.

The deputies are to register in the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium building between 1100 and 1430 on 30 July.

Armed Civilians Surrounding NKAO Villages

NC2807112090 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0500 GMT 28 Jul 90

[From the review of KHORHRDAYIN HAYASTAN]

[Text] The paper has published an article by Slava Mosunts [editor of the regional paper in Mardakertskiy Rayon in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, NKAO] entitled: The Situation in the NKAO.

Mosunts writes that army troops have been absent from the border villages of Gazanchi and (?Kichan) in Mardakertskiy Rayon for the past eight days. On 24 July, civilians armed with automatic weapons and helicopters without (?identification marks) appeared in surrounding villages, creating serious anxiety in the two mountainous Armenian villages.

Apparently, writes Mosunts, the statement made by Asadov, the Azerbaijan republic's internal affairs minister, on Baku television to the effect that the areas bordering Armenia and the NKAO will be defended by the people's tribunals is now being implemented.

Central Asia

Kazakhstan Survey Shows Underused Housing Stock

LD2707090490 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Some 5,000 apartments were immediately found following a check on just half of Kazakhstan's housing stock. Through their redistribution alone, the local authorities of the republic will be able to provide accommodation to all the families of the servicemen who died during the years of the Great Patriotic War and in Afghanistan. This problem has still not been solved.

It turns out that a further 6,500 apartments are being used improperly—often for official purposes—while hundreds of families have not been able to receive accommodation for many years.

Further on Interethnic Tension in Osh Oblast

Curfew 'Reduced'

LD2707123490 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] It is reported from the Osh Oblast of Kirghizia that the situation here has stabilized somewhat. All enterprises in the oblast center are working.

The curfew in the capital of the republic has been reduced.

'Stabilization' Noted

PM2907142990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jul 90 First Edition p 1

[Own correspondents A. Kaipbergenov and Yu. Razgulyayev report: "Road to Uzgen. Events in Osh Oblast"]

[Text] Osh Oblast, 27 Jul—Uzgen today is unrecognizable. The rayon center is suffering. There are broken windows in ransacked houses: Some 356 residences were burned during the mass riots in early June.

Kirghiz and Uzbeks had lived together here until recently. Comings, goings, and the main centers are being controlled by servicemen. They are still many people's only hope.

An investigation should show just what happened here in the first few days of summer and how it could have happened. In the meantime the city is still being built. On the instructions of the republic's government virtually all of the oblast's rayons and many of the republic's construction organizations are helping out.

"Last week we repaired housing for up to 1,200 people every day," A. Karpasov, the recently elected first secretary of Uzgen party raykom [rayon committee], recounted. "The several days during which roads to the rayon center were blockaded slowed the pace of the work. Now we are getting back to our former rhythm. According to preliminary calculations, the losses from the riots run to around 30 million rubles in Uzgen alone. Every measure is now being taken to ensure that all the afflicted families obtain quality housing before the cold season sets in."

We also visited the neighboring village of Mirza-Aki. We visited temporary camps housing the refugees. Currently, V. Goncharov, Kirghiz SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] minister of internal affairs and oblast commandant, reported, 88 people in the oblast are missing without trace. After several days during which the roads to Uzgen were blockaded the situation is getting back to normal. Construction freight continues to arrive. A certain stabilization of the situation is being noted. Difficult meetings under the auspices of the party raykom have begun between representatives of the warring factions. The emerging realization that there is no future in confrontation is a hopeful sign.

According to information from the oblast commandant, all consumer service, communications, and transport enterprises were operating yesterday.

Background Events Viewed

PM3007102590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 3

[Report by special correspondents Anatoliy Stepovoy and Gennadiy Shipitko: "Predicted Explosion; Chronicle of Hot Summer in Kirghizia"]

[Excerpt] Osh-Uzgen-Dzhalal-Abad-Frunze—[passage omitted] The entire prehistory of the Osh events attests to the fact that the republic's leadership, whether it wanted to or not, allowed a series of very serious blunders and errors. You only have to recall the expulsion of some Meskhetian Turks from the republic and the ignoring of the interests of another section of the population when adopting the law on the state language. Yet it must be noted that apart from the 52 percent of the republic's population which is Kirghiz, 48 percent consists of representatives of 80 nationalities and ethnic groups. The law on language, adopted hastily and without all-around discussion, reinforces what was implemented for years formerly in practice, without publicity it is true: the selection and placement of cadres and priority for jobs and education strictly on national lines. In Osh Oblast again, where 26 percent of the population is Uzbek, only four percent of leading party posts are held by Uzbeks. There is a similar picture in the soviet and economic organs of the oblast and republic. This situation is backed up by legal acts and operates at the level of daily routine. There are more than enough similar examples of nationality being given priority today.

When the shells of the burned down houses were still smoldering in the south of the republic, when not all the bodies had yet been consigned to the ground, the 19th Kirghiz Communist Party Congress was held in Frunze. A curfew was in operation in the city. The forces of law and order guarded the tranquillity of the delegates.

On hearing the report from A. Masaliyev, leader of the republican party organization and chairman of the Kirghiz Supreme Soviet, and many speeches, the people tried to find answers to the urgent questions. Alas, there were no answers. On the other hand, the inalienable right "to a leading and guiding role" and the "consolidation" of existing sociopolitical structures in society was asserted with full polemical passion.

Nor was any assessment given of the activity of the Central Committee and its leadership. The unremitting accusations against the extremists and the press merely concealed the real reasons and allowed those really to blame for the interethnic tragedy to avoid responsibility.

To our great regret, the congress of Kirgizstan's communists was unable to elaborate a decision on ways of emerging from the impasse in which society has found itself. The further development of events (Dzhalal-Abad, Osh again, and Uzgen) showed the full unconstructiveness and perniciousness of the conclusions and assessments which had been made. A drastic new surge in the destabilization of the situation in South Kirghizia occurred soon after the congress. And could it have been otherwise? Hardly. After all, on leaving the forum, many party, soviet, and economic leaders settled back in their chairs. Even whose who are directly to blame for everything that happened.

Soon, it is true, "disenfranchised" people emerged, those who had lost their leading posts. We believe it is not hard to guess who they are. The selfsame scapegoats who had failed to ensure, failed to see, and missed their opportunity...

Osh Oblast. Chronicle of Events

June. A. Sydykov, first secretary of the Osh party gorkom [city committee], Zh. Asanov, first secretary of the Uzgenskiy party raykom [rayon committee], and K. Uzakov, first secretary of the Karasuyskiy party Raykom, were dismissed from their posts...

They would have restricted themselves to that, as was the case before. But disorders again broke out in the oblast, the originator of which was the Uzbek section of the population. And then they decided to sacrifice one more figure—Zh. Bekbolotov, chairman of the Osh Oblispolkom [oblast soviet executive committee]. This post has now been entrusted to A. Isabayev, secretary of the party obkom—an Uzbek by nationality. R. Tazhibayev, chief of the oblast internal affairs department, (yes, the same man who warned of a possible interethnic eruption and whom those who have now dismissed him accused of panic-mongering) was also removed from his post.

Meanwhile many of those with whom we talked cited the name of a different culprit whose actions and crimes led directly to the eruption—U. Sydykov, first secretary of the Osh party obkom [oblast committee]. In less than 18 months U. Sydykov, formerly a party raykom first secretary, has managed to be chairman of the republic's State Agro-Industrial Committee, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, member of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee Bureau, and, finally, head of the republic's largest party organization.

How did he begin four months ago when he became first secretary of the party obkom and chairman of the oblast soviet? First of all he embarked on the "nationalization" of leading cadres. And the decision to allocate arable land for housing construction only to the Kirghiz section of the Osh population was entirely in the spirit of his ideas of social justice for some at the expense of others. We think that it was no accident that the emergence and consolidation of the positions of the "Osh aymagy" organization coincided with U. Sydykov's return to the oblast in his new capacity.

Meanwhile alarming reports continue to come in from Osh Oblast every day. Riots have started again, houses are being destroyed, and blood is being shed. The conflict threatens to develop into a new spiral of interethnic hostility. How to put an end to all this?

The women who come every day to the front entrance of the obkom and oblast soviet demand one thing: that an end be put to the fratricide and that all the culprits be punished. They are convinced that impunity only leads to new, senseless casualties. They are angry that even six weeks after the start of the conflict scarcely more than 50 participants in the mass riots have been arrested or are being investigated. Yet tens of thousands of people have taken part and are continuing to take part in these riots! But it looks as though no one from the local leadership is heeding their voice.

The conflict in Kirghizia has been continuing unabated for nearly two months. It would seem that only recently we renounced the principle of distributing every single thing on the basis of class. And now it has been replaced by a new principle—distribution according to nationality. This inevitably leads to new confrontation. And there can be no winners in this antagonism.

Osh Oblast. Chronicle of Events

On 25 July over 200 people died with the start of the mass riots. Over 400 people have gone missing. The material damage totalled about 50 million rubles.

The search for paths of conciliation and the return of the refugees continues in Uzgen. There was no success in organizing the population's mass assembly and resolving the acute problem immediately. An internal troops unit has been brought into the city to maintain order. Today an attempt will be made to return the Kirghiz refugees from Zhupas village to Osh city and to return Uzbek refugees from Osh city to Mady village.

The curfew continues to operate in Frunze.

The Osh events, for all their large scale, are merely a tragic episode in the overall picture of aggravated interethnic relations.

Sumgait, Nagornyy Karabakh, Fergana, Novyy Uzen, Abkhazia, Baku, Dushanbe, Tuva... And now the latest site of interethnic crisis—Kirghizia.

To this day, and it is an obvious fact, neither the true culprits of the interethnic conflicts nor the specific forces which undoubtedly stand at the sources of these sociopolitical upheavals have been revealed. It is impunity which is the nutrient medium which nurtures the poisoned seeds of nationalism. And while the competent organs remain onlookers, as it were, to all that is happening it is hard to count on the seats of interethnic tension disappearing of their own accord. The official organs must finally give an exhaustive assessment of all that is taking place and give the public an answer to the glaring question: Who is to blame?

The journalistic investigation carried out by us and the conclusions drawn on the basis of the items collected will, we hope, help this.